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Dear Readers,

Welcome to issue 34 of the Think Tank Review compiled by the EU Council Library* ([click to share on Twitter](#)). It references papers published in March 2016. As usual, we provide the link to the full text and a short abstract.

Think tank publication activity did not cease during the Easter break! On the contrary. In the first section ('EU Politics and Institutions'), our readers will find several contributions, including a paper on the parliamentary scrutiny of European Union legislation, as well as one on lobbying in the EU. We have also included the project 'Building Bridges Between National Perspectives on the European Union', coordinated by the French Institute of International Relations (Ifri) with three major partners: the Polish Institute of International Affairs (PISM), Real Instituto Elcano and EUROPEUM - European Institute for European Policy. This project has benefited from the support of institutes in each Member State and it aims to stimulate public debate among national experts on the relationship between their Member State and the EU and on the future of the Union.

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In the 'Economic and Financial Affairs' section (section two), we noted, in particular, two papers: the first on national parliaments, surveillance mechanisms and ownership in the euro area; and the second on the Spanish financial crisis and the lessons for the European Banking Union.

In the 'EU Member States' section (section three) we highlight a paper looking at the transition of Eastern Germany following German Unification which analyses whether the transition from a centrally planned to a market economy offers new perspectives for those who, in economic terms, were relatively deprived under the old regime. In this section, our readers will also find a study on electric mobility in Portugal and two analytical pieces on Spain, one discussing Spain's changing migration patterns in the wake of the economic crisis and the other containing an analysis of the economic expansion in Spain from 1995 until 2007. We further noted two papers from Transparency International: one concentrating on Lithuania's judiciary and the other on Slovakia's health sector. Finally, as the referendum in the United Kingdom on the EU membership approaches, we saw think tanks focusing again on the UK's future in the European Union.

* This collection of links and abstracts was compiled by the Library of the General Secretariat of the EU Council for information only. The contents linked are the sole responsibility of its authors. Publications linked from this review do not represent the positions, policies, or opinions of the Council of the European Union or the European Council.

As we show in the 'EU Policies' section (section four), think tanks continued to focus on migration and the refugee crisis. We noted a report that examines Canada's implementation of Express Entry and explores how the expression of interest system could offer mechanisms to improve the management of highly skilled migration. Think tanks also gave particular attention to issues related to the Energy Union. On Employment and Social issues, we found papers focusing on labour mobility in the euro area, a European minimum wage policy, work in the digital economy, pensions reform and single parent families.

In the 'Foreign Affairs' section (section five), we present a report 'Europe's troublemakers - The populist challenge to foreign policy' which intends to build a inter-disciplinary and general understanding of the populist phenomenon in Europe and its impact on foreign policy formulation and processes. Under this section, we also propose a wide selection of articles focusing on Daesh and on the fight against terrorism. Additionally, we believe that it is worth taking a look at an [interview](#) with Gilles de Kerchove, the EU Counter-Terrorism Coordinator. Furthermore, this April issue includes robust subsections on China, Middle East and North Africa, Turkey and the BRICS presenting a rich variety of content and analysis.

Also noteworthy is a particularly broad selection of papers on the Western Balkans that constitute our 'Special Focus' section. This section carries content on the Western Balkans and its EU integration, on how migration and great power politics threaten the Western Balkans, on Balkans partnerships and the strengthening of the region's ties, as well as two papers on Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The Review can be downloaded from our [informal blog](#). As always, feedback is welcome at library@consilium.europa.eu.

The next Review will be out in May 2016, with papers published in April 2016.

For readers from outside the General Secretariat, the Library is in the Justus Lipsius building, at JL 02 GH, Rue de la Loi 175, 1048 Brussels. It is open to Council officials, staff of other EU institutions and Permanent Representations of Member States. Members of the public may use the library for research purposes.

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SECTION 1 - EU POLITICS AND INSTITUTIONS

Latvijas Ārpolitikas institūts (Latvian Institute of International Affairs)

Leadership through the European Union Council Presidency: Latvia and Central Asia

by Gunta Pastore

19 March 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (18 p.)

This report offers additional insights into how small states punch above their weight in the EU through the Council presidency. It draws lessons from the Latvian presidency during the first half of 2015. Specifically, it analyses how Latvia pursued Central Asia as the presidency's priority.

Egmont – Royal Institute for International Relations

The reform of the EU Courts (II)

by Franklin Dehousse

21 March 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (84 p.)

The 2011 proposal of the European Court of Justice aiming to increase the number of judges of the General Court has mutated after four years into a complete change of the EU judicial system. This long legislative debate was the first implementation of the Lisbon Treaty in the judicial domain. It has revealed different problems of the approach of public service reform in the European institutions.

Institute for Government

Parliamentary scrutiny of European Union legislation - Lessons from other European countries

by Robyn Munro [@RobynMunro](#), Hannah White and Louise Borjes [@LouiseBorjes](#)

10 March 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (44 p.)

In this report, the authors look at how seven national parliaments across Europe – from countries inside and outside the EU – scrutinise EU legislation and how their governments engage with EU institutions. They identify what these parliaments – in Germany, Sweden, Finland, Ireland, the Netherlands, Scotland and Norway – are seeking to achieve and how they go about it.

Institut français des relations internationales

Building bridges

by Vivien Pertusot (ed.) [@VPertusot](#)

March 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (233 p.)

The "Building Bridges" project looks at the national perspectives on the EU. This publication gathers contributions from across the EU. It sheds light on Member States' motivations to participate in the EU and views on its future. Accessible and analytical, this volume is an ideal reference guide for practitioners, experts, students and European citizens.

Transparency International

Open data to fight corruption - Case study: the EU and lobbying

by Daniel Freund [@Daniel_freund](#) and Yannik Bendel [@y_bendel](#)

March 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (14 p.)

This case study focuses on lobbying in the EU and aims to provide guidance to policy-makers and activists in a diverse range of countries for how specific data sets can be used to prevent, detect and investigate corruption.

SECTION 2 - ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS

Jacques Delors Institute - Berlin

National parliaments, surveillance mechanisms and ownership in the euro area

by Valentin Kreilinger [@tineurope](#)

16 March 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (84 p.)

European coordination mechanisms play an increasingly important role in EU Economic Governance. However, there is still too little acceptance of the common rules and too little compliance in Member States. This study asks to what extent the role of national parliaments and national political ownership can help to explain the lack of compliance and how recent reforms, in particular the creation and the strengthening of the European Semester, have contributed to improving the situation.

Institute of Economic Affairs

Policy stability and economic growth: lessons from the great recession

by John B. Taylor [@EconomicsOne](#)

3 March 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (113 p.)

In this paper, John Taylor's story about the break from rules starts in the run-up to the financial crash. In his analysis, he describes how the Federal Reserve started using much more discretion, especially in the early 2000s. It continued in this way after the crisis of 2008. Ultimately, rules-based frameworks broke down in other areas too, and planning within the private sector became much more difficult: hence the sluggish response after the output slump following the financial crisis. John Taylor's message is that we must return to a situation where governments follow rules rather than use their own discretion. More generally, governments should promote economic freedom rather than intervene in a discretionary way in the economy.

Real Instituto Elcano (Elcano Royal Institute)

The Spanish financial crisis: lessons for the European Banking Union

Miguel Otero-Iglesias [@miotei](#), Sebastián Royo and Federico Steinberg [@Steinbergf](#)

March 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (60 p.)

In the first years of the Global Financial Crisis, Spanish financial institutions were not as severely affected as those of other countries. However, their apparent success was short-lived. As the crisis intensified, Spain's banking sector could not escape its dramatic effects. The analysis of the Spanish crisis confirms a long-standing tenet: financial systems collapse when they take on too much risk and when they do not have sufficient capital in reserve to absorb the losses of their risky investments and loans. This report examines the Spanish banking crisis and uses it to extract valuable lessons for the construction of the European Banking Union.

Bertelsmann Stiftung

Departure from the Schengen agreement: macroeconomic impacts on Germany and the countries of the European Union

by Michael Böhmer, Jan Limbers, Ante Pivac and Heidrun Weinelt

1 March 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (20 p.)

The long-term reintroduction of border controls within Europe would reduce economic growth throughout Europe. Up to the year 2025 for Germany alone a decline in growth can be expected amounting to a minimum of 77 billion from 2016 to 2025. In a pessimistic scenario these losses could even sum up to about 235 billion euros within the next 10 years.

European Centre for International Political Economy

Who reforms for higher productivity?

by Erik van der Marel [@ErikvanderMarel](#)

24 March 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (6 p.)

With sluggish growth performance in the EU over the last years, it is increasingly important to make reforms that lift economic growth. While there are various sources of growth, one outstanding factor determining growth rates is how productively an economy uses economic resources such as labour and capital, or what we would normally call productivity. Productivity measures how much added value can be extracted from efficiently using economic resources, what amounts to one of the most important sources of growth, especially in developed economies like Europe. A chief task for a growth programme for Europe is therefore to raise the weak rates of productivity growth that it has experienced over the past two decades.

Centre for European Policy Studies

The ECB's latest gimmick cash for loans

by Daniel Gros, Diego Valiante [@diegovaliante](#) and Willem Pieter De Groen

24 March 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (6 p.)

Among several important monetary policy initiatives decided by the ECB on 10 March 2016 was the launch of a new set of targeted longer-term refinancing operations (TLTRO II), expanding on the previous TLTRO (Targeted longer-term refinancing operations). In assessing this scheme, which might cost up to €24 billion, this paper discovers that while it could become important, it is questionable whether it will achieve its goal of encouraging the extension of credit for new investment, as banks can easily window dress their loan book.

Istituto Affari Internazionali

L'Italia e la riforma della governance economica europea

by Fabrizio Saccomanni [@FabSaccomanni](#)

15 March 2016

Link to the article in [Italian](#) (7 p.)

"A common European strategy for growth, employment and stability", the document that the Italian Minister of Economy and Finance, Pier Carlo Padoan, has drafted and made public in late February, is a very important contribution to the debate on the reform of European governance at the political, analytical and procedural levels. In this essay the author examines some of the main issues raised by the document under the above three levels.

Centre Maurits Coppieters

The economic strategy of stateless nations in the framework of the European cohesion

by Nuria Fernandez Conejero, Rocio Cortés Fuentes and Luis H. Rodríguez Ruiz

23 March 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (25 p.)

The purpose of the study is to analyse the territorial development strategies formulated in the framework of the Cohesion Policy of the new 2014-2020 programming period in the regions of Aragon, Corsica, Scotland, Euskal Herria, Flanders, Galicia, Wales, Catalonia, Valencian Country and the Balearic Islands. Accordingly, the goal of the authors is to identify the investment profiles of each territory charged against the Structural Funds and assess the contribution of the EU to solve the problems and weaknesses that hinder further economic growth in these regions.

Bruegel

A proposal to revive the European fiscal framework

by Grégory Claeys [@Gregclaeys](#), Zsolt Darvas [@ZsoltDarvas](#) and Álvaro Leandro

24 March 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (20 p.)

Pro-cyclical fiscal tightening might be one reason for the anaemic economic recovery in Europe, raising questions about the effectiveness of the EU's fiscal framework in achieving its two main objectives: public debt sustainability and fiscal stabilisation. Implementation of the rules is hindered by the badly-measured structural balance indicator and incorrect forecasts, leading to erroneous policy recommendations. According to the authors, the current inefficient European fiscal framework should be replaced with a system based on rules that are more conducive to the two objectives, more transparent, easier to implement and which have a higher potential to be complied with. In the end, the authors suggest the creation of a European Fiscal Council.

The United States dominate global investment banking: does it matter for Europe?

by Charles Goodhart and Dirk Schoenmaker

3 March 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (14 p.)

In the aftermath of the global financial crisis, the market share of US investment banks is increasing, while that of their European counterparts is declining. The authors present evidence that US investment banks are on the verge of taking over pole position in European investment banking. Meanwhile, since 2015, Chinese investment banks have overtaken American and European investment banks in the Asia-Pacific market. On the political side, they suggest that the European Commission should continue to view its, albeit declining, banking industry as a strategic sector.

CEPII - Centre d'études prospectives et d'informations internationales

How multi-destination firms shape the effect of exchange rate volatility on trade: micro evidence and aggregate implications

by Jérôme Héricourt [@JeromeHericourt](#) and Clément Nedoncelle

March 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (46 p.)

How can the lack of reaction of aggregate exports to Real Exchange Rate (RER) volatility be explained? Using a French firm-level database that combines balance-sheet and product-destination-specific export information over the period 1995-2009, the authors propose a micro-founded explanation to this macro puzzle, by investigating how firms reallocate exports across

destinations following RER volatility shocks. They show that firm-level bilateral exports to a considered destination also react to external volatility, represented by several indicators they build.

International financial flows in the new normal: key patterns (and why we should care)

by Matthieu Bussière [@Matt Bussiere](#), Julia Schmidt and Natacha Valla

March 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (32 p.)

This article documents recent trends in international financial flows, based on a newly assembled dataset covering 40 advanced and emerging countries. Specifically, the authors compare the period since 2012 with the pre-crisis period and highlight four key stylized facts. First, the "Great Retrenchment" that took place during the crisis has proved very persistent, and world financial flows are now down to half their pre-crisis levels. Second, this fall can predominantly be related to advanced economies, while emerging markets have been less severely affected until recently. Third, the global patterns of net flows have also recorded significant changes. Fourth, not all types of flows have shown the same degree of resilience, resulting in a profound change in the composition of international financial flows.

SAFE - Sustainable Architecture for Finance in Europe

Should the marketing of subordinated debt be restricted/different in one way or the other? What to do in the case of mis-selling?

by Martin Götz and Tobias Tröger

21 March 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (22 p.)

An important prerequisite for the efficiency of bail-in as a regulatory tool is that debt holders are able to bear the cost of a bail-in. Examining European banks' subordinated debt the authors caution that households may be investors in bail-in able bonds. Since households do not fulfil the aforementioned prerequisite, they argue that European bank supervisors need to ensure that banks' bail-in bonds are held by sophisticated investors. Existing EU market regulation insufficiently addresses miss-selling of bail-in instruments.

SECTION 3 - EU MEMBER STATES

BULGARIA

Център за изследване на демокрацията (Center for the Study of Democracy)

Improving governance in Bulgaria: evaluating the impact of EU conditionality through policy and financial assistance

by Ruslan Stefanov [@Rugeste](#) and Stefan Karaboev [@StefanKaraboev](#)

17 March 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (52 p.)

The paper examines the impact on Bulgaria's anti-corruption performance of the interrelation between EU policy conditionality and EU financial assistance, with a focus on post-accession developments. Although the EU never formally linked EU assistance to progress on anti-corruption, the disbursement of funds has tended to peak around critical deadlines for accession progress, e.g. the signing of the accession treaty in 2005, and the expiration of the Cooperation and Verification Mechanism's safeguard clauses in 2010. Both years also marked the lowest levels of corruption experienced by Bulgaria's citizens. This suggests that the combined effect of EU anticorruption conditionality and development assistance on governance in Bulgaria was positive - but temporary.

GERMANY

Zentrum für Europäische Wirtschaftsforschung (Centre for European Economic Research)

Changing fortunes during economic transition - Low-wage persistence before and after German unification

by Nicole Gürtzgen and André Nolte

30 March 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (61 p.)

This paper studies whether the transition from a centrally planned to a market economy offers new perspectives for those who, in economic terms, were relatively deprived under the old regime. This study seeks to fill this research gap by looking at the transition of Eastern Germany following German Unification. Using a unique large-scale German administrative data set, it measures individuals' relative economic position by exploiting information on whether individuals were in the bottom of the pre-unification wage distribution. It then addresses the question of how workers' low or high-wage status determines their wage and labour market status within and across different regimes.

Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (Friedrich Ebert Foundation)

Ungleiches Deutschland: Sozioökonomischer Disparitätenbericht 2015

by Joachim Albrech [@joa_albrech](#), Philipp Fink and Heinrich Tiemann

16 March 2016

Link to the article in [German](#) (56 p.)

This study is carried out in a larger framework of the project: "Good society - Social Democracy 2017 plus" which focuses on the topic of inequality. The article aims at displaying how inequality developed, what does it mean for the lives of German citizens and what are the possible solutions. The present analysis is the first one of a bigger cycle in which further studies will follow in the course of the year.

Transatlantic Academy

Germany's Russia policy: from sanctions to Nord Stream 2?

by Hannes Adomeit

14 March 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (17 p.)

Until fall 2015, the German government under the leadership of Chancellor Angela Merkel, the three parties of her governing coalition, an overwhelming majority of the foreign policy community in Berlin, and German public opinion appeared to be more, rather than less, solidly behind a firm approach towards Russia. The atmosphere has changed along with several developments converging to convey either the reality or the impression of declining resolve and increasing restiveness in Germany about the sanctions regime. Germany's political leaders and public opinion, however, are deeply divided on the question of what needs to be done.

LITHUANIA

Transparency International

Open data to fight corruption - Case study: Lithuania's judiciary

3 March 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (14 p.)

This case study focuses on Lithuania's judiciary and aims to provide guidance to policy-makers and activists in a diverse range of countries for how specific data sets can be used to prevent, detect and investigate corruption.

PORTUGAL

Plataforma para o Crescimento Sustentável (Platform for Sustainable Growth)

Vencer o desafio da Mobilidade Elétrica em Portugal

by Cristovão Byrne and Paulo Pedro

March 2016

Link to the article in [Portuguese](#) (66 p.)

In 2015, PCS (Platform for Sustainable growth) embraced an initiative in the areas of Mobility and Energy to draw up a policy paper on electric mobility. In addition to making a diagnosis of the ecosystem of the sector in Portugal and the impact on public policies in various areas, this policy paper advocates a set of strategic guidelines for the development of electric mobility in the country.

SLOVAKIA

Transparency International

Open data to fight corruption - Case study: Slovakia's health sector

by Gabriel Sipos

3 March 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (12 p.)

This case study focuses on Slovakia's health sector and aims to provide guidance to policy-makers and activists in a diverse range of countries for how specific data sets can be used to prevent, detect and investigate corruption.

SPAIN

Migration Policy Institute

Spain: new emigration policies needed for an emerging diaspora

by Joaquín Arango

9 March 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (24 p.)

This report discusses Spain's changing migration patterns in the wake of dramatic economic downturn, paying special attention to the effects of the emigration of young, native-born Spaniards. The report also focuses on policies geared toward engaging the increasing number of Spaniards abroad, finding that much of Spain's policy towards diasporas predates the 1980s.

Barcelona Graduate School of Economics

Growing like Spain: 1995-2007

by Manuel García-Santana, Enrique Moral-Benito, Josep Pijoan-Mas and Roberto Ramos

28 March 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (41 p.)

Spanish GDP grew at an average rate of 3.5% per year during the expansion of 1995-2007, well above the EU average of 2.2%. However, this growth was based on factor accumulation rather than productivity gains as TFP fell at an annual rate of 0.7%. Using firm-level administrative data for all sectors the authors show that deterioration in the allocative efficiency of productive factors across firms was at the root of the low TFP growth in Spain, while misallocation across sectors played only a minor role. Then, they show how the observed high output growth together with increasing firm-level misallocation in all sectors is consistent with an expansion driven by a demand boom rather than by structural reforms.

UNITED KINGDOM

Fundación para el análisis y los estudios sociales (Foundation for Social Studies and Analysis)

'Brexit' is a challenge for the entire continent

by Stephen Booth

14 March 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (13 p.) and in [Spanish](#) (14 p.)

The relationship with the EU is only one part of the post-Brexit story. A referendum result that saw the UK leave the EU, despite a vote to Remain in Scotland, would lead to demands for another Scottish independence vote that would be near impossible to resist. If Euroscepticism and national democracy are marginalised and confined to the political extremes, this will only further pit the EU elites against the insurgents, with potentially politically explosive consequences. While it would be tempting for the EU to regard a Remain vote as a relief, it would be naïve to think that the 'British issue' will have been resolved. Whatever a Remain vote will be, it will not be an enthusiastic endorsement of the EU.

Centre for European Policy Studies

Britain's future in Europe: the known plan A to remain or the unknown plan B to leave

by Michael Emerson (ed.) [@Michael1254O](#)

4 March 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (225 p.)

The [first edition of this publication](#), issued in March 2015, laid the foundations for any objective assessment of the workings of the EU and the UK's place in it. This second edition adds a substantial new chapter following Prime Minister Cameron's agreement with the EU and announcement of the referendum. It reviews both the 'Plan A', namely the status quo for the UK in the EU as amended by the new agreement, and three variants of a 'Plan B' for secession. The authors therefore do the 'leave' camp's homework for them, setting out three Plan Bs more concretely and in more depth than the 'leave' camp have been able or wanted to do.

College of Europe

A new settlement for the UK: a "Leap in the Dark"

by Phedon Nicolaides, Roxana Nedelescu [@NedelescuRoxana](#), Joanna Hornik, Gibran Watfe [@GibranWatfe](#) and Gil Stein

1 March 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (24 p.)

This paper examines the outcome of the negotiations for a new settlement concerning the UK's relationship with the EU. It reviews the nature and possible consequences of the 'substantial changes' that were demanded in the areas of economic governance, competitiveness, sovereignty, and immigration. The authors argue that the proposed arrangements do not amount to much and can prove harmful to the future of the EU. The paper is a follow-up to a previous analysis of the initial proposals.

The new deal with the United Kingdom: the downside of flexibility

by Phedon Nicolaides, Roxana Nedelescu [@NedelescuRoxana](#), Joanna Hornik and Gibran Watfe [@GibranWatfe](#)

1 March 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (16 p.)

This paper examines the proposals listed by the President of the European Council, Donald Tusk, in response to the letter sent by the British Prime Minister, David Cameron, asking for a fresh settlement concerning the UK's relationship with the EU. The paper reviews the nature and possible consequences of the "substantial changes" that were demanded in the areas of economic governance, competitiveness, sovereignty, and immigration.

Policy Network

Britain's special status in Europe : a comprehensive assessment of the UK-EU deal and its consequences

by Andrew Duff [@AndrewDuffEU](#)

3 March 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (11 p.)

Three years of 'renegotiation' of Britain's terms of membership of the EU culminated at the meeting of the European council on 18-19 February 2016. A new settlement for the UK was drafted in the form of a set of arrangements covering sovereignty, economic governance, competitiveness and the mobility of EU citizens. The new 'special status' of the UK will become legally binding if and when the British people vote to remain in the EU at the referendum on 23 June. But what does the

agreement entail, and how will it affect not only the ties that bind the UK to membership of the EU but also the future of the EU as a whole?

Istituto Affari Internazionali

Brexit or no Brexit? Political and institutional implications of an EU without the UK

by Funda Tekin

9 March 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (24 p.)

The UK will vote on its fate within the EU on 23 June 2016. Currently, there is still time to influence the outcome of this referendum – both from the UK and the EU side. The effects of a Brexit need to be closely assessed and communicated. This paper sets out to analyse the implications of different scenarios for Britain's European future both in institutional and political terms. The main argument is that one way or the other the UK will be inclined to give up on its full membership, and then the EU will have to find the best possible ways to accommodate.

Institute for European Environmental Policy

Implications of Brexit for UK Environmental Policy and Regulation - a report for APPG

by David Baldock, Andrew Farmer and Martin Nesbit

March 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (24 p.)

There is an important environmental dimension to any decision by the UK to leave the EU. This paper for the UK All-Party Parliamentary Environment Group explores the options that might be pursued outside the EU and considers the potential impact on environmental and climate policy, which could be considerable. The UK response could vary under different scenarios for future relationships with the EU and there is also likely to be greater scope for variations in approach by the four constituent countries within the UK following Brexit.

Institute for Public Policy Research

Free movement and the EU referendum

by Marley Morris

24 March 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (32 p.)

The first EU referendum taking place in the UK in a generation will take place on 23 June. People's views on EU migration are likely to play a crucial role in how they vote. This briefing seeks to inform the debate by setting out some of the key evidence on freedom of movement and exploring public attitudes to EU migration.

New powers, new Scotland? How the Scottish Parliament could use its new tax and benefit responsibilities

by Spencer Thompson [@SThompson20](#) and Russell Gunson [@RussellGunson](#)

7 March 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (41 p.)

The devolution of greater powers over taxes and benefits to the Scottish parliament offers Scotland opportunities to both offset short-term challenges to its fiscal position, and to develop its own distinctive tax and benefits system. This report explores Holyrood's fiscal options, and models their effects.

Institute for Fiscal Studies

Scotland's fiscal framework: assessing the agreement

by David Bell [@DavidNFBell](#), David Eiser [@David_Eiser](#) and David Phillips

22 March 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (62 p.)

The Smith Commission Agreement, published on 27 November 2014, set out proposals for substantial fiscal devolution to the Scottish Parliament. The Scotland Bill will enshrine these powers in law. Both the Smith Commission Agreement and the UK Government's subsequent Command Paper, 'An Enduring Settlement' recognised that the devolution of fiscal powers has to be accompanied by the development of a new Fiscal Framework for Scotland. This report reviews and appraises the Fiscal Framework Agreement, with a particular focus on this issue of block grant adjustment.

SECTION 4 - EU POLICIES

JUSTICE AND HOME AFFAIRS

Fondation Robert Schuman

The European Union and the fight to counter terrorism

by Philippe Delivet

29 March 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (6 p.) and in [French](#) (7 p.)

The measures provided for in the treaties to deal with the terrorist threat do not diminish the Member States' exercise of responsibility in maintaining public order and the protection of internal security. But the Union must also work to ensure a high level of security, particularly via measures involving coordination and cooperation between police and judicial authorities. And so the question of European "added-value" is raised in a battle that is first and foremost the responsibility of the Member States themselves.

Център за изследване на демокрацията (Center for the Study of Democracy)

Understanding radicalisation: review of literature

by Rositsa Dzhekova [@RosiDzhekova](#)

9 March 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (85 p.)

This literature review presents key academic conceptualisations and debates on the phenomena of radicalisation that might lead to violence. It deals with three different forms of radicalisation, including Islamist radicalisation, right-wing as well as left-wing radicalisation. In addition, an overview is provided of current academic debates regarding the role of the internet in radicalisation processes. The review is particularly relevant for countries of Central and Eastern Europe where radicalisation remains understudied.

RAND Europe

Using Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements to manage and supervise terrorist offenders

by Emma Disley, Mafalda Pardal, Kristin Weed and Anais Reding [@AnaisReding](#)

March 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (58 p.)

MAPPA has been used to manage violent and sexual offenders on release from prison. Under these arrangements, offenders are identified, assessed and subject to supervision and monitoring in order to protect the public. Central to MAPPA is that key agencies are under a statutory duty to share information and cooperate. In 2009 these arrangements were extended to cover those convicted of terrorist offenders. RAND Europe conducted an exploratory study in 2011 to examine potential challenges in applying MAPPA to terrorist offenders and the readiness of those involved to do so.

Do significant terrorist attacks increase the risk of further attacks? Initial observations from a statistical analysis of terrorist attacks in the United States and Europe from 1970 to 2013

by Brian Michael Jenkins [@BrianMJenkins](#), Henry H. Willis [@HenryHWillis](#) and Bing Han

March 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (12 p.)

Does a significant terrorist attack somehow inspire other terrorist attacks, and can terrorist attacks be anticipated statistically? Using the Global Terrorism Database, the researchers find an absence

of clustering for terrorist events around trigger events since 1994, no increases in terrorism on significant dates, and a decline of terrorism in the West since the 1970s, suggesting that the threat of terrorism should not affect individuals' behaviour and decisions in the US and Western Europe — not even in the wake of a significant terrorist event. However, the researchers argue that heightened security may be justified.

The cost of non-Europe in the area of organised crime and corruption : annex II - Corruption

by Marco Hafner [@econ_hafner](#), Jirka Taylor, Emma Disley, Sonja Thebes, Matteo Barberi, Martin Stepanek and Mike Levi [@levi_m](#)

March 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (157 p.)

Corruption is a phenomenon that can inflict serious political, economic and social harms to societies around the world. This study looks at the cost of non-Europe in relation to corruption. 'Cost of non-Europe' studies may examine either the challenges of incomplete integration, or the opportunities afforded by greater integration than currently exists. In this case, the authors examined the potential added value or benefits of EU-wide implementation of anti-corruption policies.

MIGRATION AND REFUGEE CRISIS

Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (Friedrich Ebert Foundation)

Refugee policy in the European Union: protect human rights!

by Petra Bendel

March 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (32 p.)

This report gives a comprehensive and detailed overview of the EU's refugee policy. It serves to provide orientation in this currently very dynamic policy area. Universal human rights offer a compass for evaluating proposed measures and policy ideas.

Migration Policy Institute

No way out? Making additional migration channels work for refugees

by Elizabeth Collett [@migrationliz](#), Paul Clewett and Susan Fratzke [@ekztarf](#)

March 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (45 p.)

This report explains how governments, international organizations, and other actors can support refugees' paths to self-sufficiency and stability by ensuring the accessibility of existing opportunities as well as creating new ones. Private sponsorship of refugees by individuals, local groups, or faith-based organizations, for example, can bring down costs to the state and accelerate integration outcomes, and has the potential to involve brand-new actors (and sources of finance) in the international protection regime. The innovative use of existing legislation geared towards the mobility of Member State nationals under regional cooperation frameworks, meanwhile, offers an alternative approach in countries where traditional protection might be politically sensitive.

The Canadian expression of interest system: a model to manage skilled migration to the European Union?

by Maria Vincenza Desiderio and Kate Hooper

March 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (40 p.)

This report examines Canada's implementation of Express Entry, a system designed to fast-track for legal immigration the skilled immigrants deemed most likely to achieve economic success and

positive integration outcomes. With the EU seeking ways to better attract global talent, the report explores how the expression of interest system could offer mechanisms to improve the management of highly skilled migration.

Centre for European Policy Studies

Migration and asylum data for policy-making in the European Union - The problem with numbers

by Ann Singleton [@AnnSingleton15](#)

March 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (9 p.)

This paper examines the reasons behind the main problems of the migration and asylum data that is used for policy-making and public discussion. It makes a set of recommendations, calling for a complete and updated inventory of data sources and for an evaluation of the quality of data used.

European Policy Centre

Elements of a complex but still incomplete puzzle: an assessment of the EU(-Turkey) summit

by Janis A. Emmanouilidis [@jaemmanouilidis](#)

21 March 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (10 p.)

The author argues that the EU-Turkey deal, which foresees a return of migrants from Greece to Turkey and a direct resettlement of Syrians from Turkey to the EU on the grounds of a '1-for-1' scheme, is a key and necessary element in a very complex puzzle trying to stop 'irregular routes' of migration. The ultimate success of this agreement is by no means certain, but it has the chance to reduce the number of people arriving at the shores of Europe.

Caritas Europa

Migrants and refugees have rights: impact of EU policies on accessing protection

by Patrick Taran, Evalyn Tennant, Arnaud Bertin and Beier Lin

10 March 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (74 p.)

This report highlights the tragedy that hundreds of thousands of people face when seeking protection in Europe. Men, women and children escaping war, repression and violation of human rights often turn to Europe in the hope of finding a safe haven. But many are instead confronted with bureaucratic hurdles, denial of protection and inconsistent reception standards across Europe. This report looks at access to international protection, non-refoulement, family reunification, labour migration and irregular migration from a humane perspective.

Istituto Affari Internazionali

Tangled connections between migration and security in the wake of the Arab uprisings: a European perspective

by Tamirace Fakhoury [@Tamyfakhoury](#)

3 March 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (17 p.)

In the wake of the Arab uprisings, the EU has been confronted with governance and humanitarian dilemmas stemming from the need to control migration flows from its southern neighbours. Focusing on the EU approach to migration governance, this paper explores some of the policies and discursive practices that have recently reinforced the complex interdependence between security and migration. It also discusses some of the triggers that have recently prompted an increased securitisation of the migration question in European policy-making. The last section

explores whether migration governance strategies inspired by the human security paradigm could contribute to more resilient and rights-based approaches to migrant crises.

Institut français des relations internationales

Exploit humanitaire ou échec ? La crise des réfugiés en Allemagne et en Europe

by Marcus Engler

March 2016

Link to the article in [French](#) (36 p.) and in [German](#) (40 p.)

The refugees' arrival has become the dominant political and societal issue in Germany, and this article analyses their reception and the potential consequences. On the one hand, this is a chance to respond to the demographic change in German society and the lack of qualified workers. On the other hand, it however implies a considerable challenge to integrate hundreds of thousands of people from a different culture and very different prerequisites and prepare them to participate in the labour market and in society at large. However, the article notes that developments on the job market and the framework set by integration policies are more conducive than in the past.

LUISS School of European Political Economy

The migration crisis - A case for a "Merzi" leadership

by Carlo Bastasin

17 March 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (3 p.)

Germany and Italy share common interests in tackling the migrant crisis—perhaps the greatest challenge in EU history. Chancellor Merkel's "Alleingang" has weak political foundations and threatens to backfire. The article posits the viewpoint that after abandoning a logic of confrontation with Berlin, the Italian government should harness Merkel's leadership, mend its evident flaws, and turn it into a driving force for the common interest. In order to do this, Matteo Renzi must make a proposal for improved governance of migration policies.

La Vie des Idées

L'Europe et ses réfugiés politiques au XIXe siècle

by Sylvie Aprile and Delphine Diaz [@Delphine_Diaz](#)

15 March 2016

Link to the article in [French](#) (9 p.)

The revolutions of the nineteenth century gave rise to a new figure, the political refugee, and also to new home policies. But, then as now, the uncertainty of the vocabulary used reflects the conflict that European states face on asylum between their duty of protection and their fear of foreigners.

AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES

CEPII - Centre d'études prospectives et d'informations internationales

Food trade, biodiversity effects and price volatility

by Cecilia Bellora and Jean-Marc Bourgeon

March 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (40 p.)

This article argues against the environmental race-to-the-bottom tenet, showing that at the symmetric equilibrium under free trade restrictions on pesticides are generally more stringent than under autarky. In the article's results, trade increases the price volatility of crops produced by both

countries, and, depending on the intensity of the biodiversity effects, of some or all of the crops that are country-specific.

Impact of European food safety border inspections on agri-food exports: evidence from Chinese firms

by Lionel Fontagné, Anne-Célia Disdier and Matthias Beestermöller

March 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (30 p.)

The article examines how the risk of rejection at European borders on safety grounds is affecting Chinese agri-food exporters. The authors combine information from the European Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed with Chinese firm-level export data by product, destination and year for the period 2000-2011. They show that information externalities and reputation effects are important. Border rejections amplify the turnover among firms at the extensive margin of trade. This risk is curbing small Chinese exporters and resulting in a concentration of Chinese exports from big and more productive exporters.

COMPETITIVENESS (INTERNAL MARKET, INDUSTRY, RESEARCH AND SPACE)

LUISS School of European Political Economy

Improved structural competitiveness or deep recession?

by Piero Esposito and Marcello Messori

18 March 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (35 p.)

By the end of 2014, all 'peripheral' countries had eliminated or drastically reduced their deficits. The article shows that this result is more dependent on the contraction of their GDP and relative reduction in their average real wages than on a productivity increase in their economy. To reach this conclusion, the paper empirically describes the determinants of the structural evolution in trade and current account imbalances and then offers econometric evidence of the impact of different components of unit labour cost on net exports. Based on this evidence, the paper points out the fragility of the European adjustments and suggests some policy implications.

Fondation Robert Schuman

A tiger in the tank: how can we take the Franco-German industrial policy forward?

by Emmanuel Lefebvre

21 March 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (9 p.) and in [French](#) (10 p.)

Franco-German cooperation often helps finding compromises which support the progressive integration of the EU. However, real achievements are lacking, particularly in terms of a more cooperative industrial policy. This study aims to present main lines of a strategy which could lead in a few stages towards a far more ambitious cooperation. To do this it seems that new impetus is necessary, targeting trust/confidence and support in a two-pronged movement: top-down – i.e. on the part of the State in the shape of inter-ministerial action and bottom-up i.e. on the part of the regions and economic players.

Lisbon Council for Economic Competitiveness and Social Renewal

The 2016 startup nation scoreboard. How European Union countries are improving policy frameworks and developing powerful ecosystems for entrepreneurs

by David Osimo [@osimod](#) and the Startup Manifesto Policy Tracker Crowdsourcing Community
March 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (76 p.)

A lot has been spoken about the need to do more to improve the ecosystem for startups, entrepreneurs and "scale-up" organisations. The policy brief sets up a framework for tracking progress on the Startup Manifesto, a 22-action roadmap published in 2014 by eight leading European entrepreneurs, and examines it from a policymaking standpoint. The article asks who is doing the most to create a better environment for startups? And who needs to do more?

Wiener Institut für Internationale Wirtschaftsvergleiche (The Vienna Institute for International Economic Studies)

Choosing the right partner: R&D cooperations and innovation success

by Sandra M. Leitner
March 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (38 p.)

This analysis sheds light on the role of different cooperative arrangements for a product innovators' success, captured in terms of either annual average sales per new or significantly improved product or, alternatively, the probability of applying for a patent. It demonstrates that the choice of cooperation partner is essential. Furthermore, it highlights that establishment size, ownership structure, trading status or absorptive capacity greatly matter and that the institutional environment is essential for an innovator's commercial success, which assigns a decisive role to policy-makers in building an environment that helps innovators extract returns to innovations to the fullest extent possible.

Leuven Centre for Global Governance Studies

Countering economic and industrial spying: a Belgian criminal law perspective.

by Kristel De Schepper, Eef Vandebroek and Frank Verbruggen
March 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (53 p.)

In a world of global competition, new technologies and borderless information transfers, economic and industrial espionage pose a serious challenge for national policy-makers. These phenomena are not just an intelligence issue but also a matter of criminal law. They raise fundamental questions about demarcating a nation's economic interests in a globalized economy and the role of criminal law as a policy instrument to protect trade secrets. This paper examines which Belgian offences may play a role in the criminalization of economic and industrial espionage and briefly describes the procedural framework.

College of Europe

SME financing in the EU: moving beyond one-size-fits-all

by Markus Demary [@DemaryMarkus](#), Joanna Hornik and Gibran Watfe [@GibranWatfe](#)
March 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (36 p.)

The proposal for a European Capital Markets Union carries large potential economic benefits from enhancing the financing possibilities for SMEs. By deepening the capital markets and strengthening cross-border integration, the European Commission expects to stimulate economic

growth and boost employment. In this paper, the authors discuss to what extent these goals can be achieved, in light of the complex business environment of European SMEs.

Istituto Bruno Leoni

AirBnB: regolare poco per regolare bene

by Francesco Del Prato

2 March 2016

Link to the article in [Italian](#) (10 p.)

In 2008, AirBnB was launched, becoming a powerful intermediary between supply and demand in the accommodation market. Thanks to its innovative peer-to-peer approach it quickly became a market leader in the sharing economy. Like many other projects related to the sharing economy, AirBnB has had to come to terms with the institutions' lack of preparation, and a potential regulatory gap that emerged due to this sector's unpredictability and its rapidly changing conditions. Members of the traditional hotel industry have begun a vigorous protest, and legislators seems to be willing to factor in their views. The authors argue that should regulation occur, it should be rational and not repressive.

TRANSPORT/TELECOMMUNICATIONS/ENERGY

Chatham House - The Royal Institute of International Affairs

Europe's Energy Union: foreign policy implications for energy security, climate and competitiveness

by Thomas Raines [@TomHRaines](#) and Shane Tomlinson

31 March 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (29 p.)

This research paper explores the Energy Union from a primarily foreign policy perspective. It considers the internal foreign policy dynamics of coordinating market development among countries whose energy priorities and domestic political imperatives often differ. It also considers the external diplomatic challenges such an initiative presents for the EU as a whole. Furthermore, this paper assesses the implications for the Energy Union of a range of European and global trends: the boom in production of shale oil and gas in the US; the plunge in oil prices since mid-2014; the likely decline in future coal-fired generation in the EU; and the increasing use of renewable energy in the EU.

Institute for Development and International Relations

EU's Energy Union strategy: challenges and opportunities

by Krševan Antun Dujmović

March 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (7 p.)

This article analyses the challenges and opportunities for EU's Energy Union strategy. After launching its Energy Union Strategy in February 2015, the EU was faced in September 2015 with an unexpected challenge of combined German-Russian initiative to build the Nord Stream 2 pipeline. The article deals with the responses to the Nord Stream 2 by the Eastern European countries which saw the project as a threat to their energy security. Finally, the author analyses the importance of the Southern Gas Corridor of the EU, and the role of gas from the Caspian Sea for energy security of Europe.

E3G

Energy Union choices: a perspective on infrastructure and energy security in the transition

by Nick Mabey [@Mabeytweet](#) and Jonathan Gaventa [@jonathangaventa](#)

March 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (40 p.)

This report investigates the resilience of the EU gas system, and the adequacy of existing capacity under a set of possible futures and scenarios. The scenarios represent a wide range of energy demand projections and look at a set of cases that would cause extreme disruption.

More security, lower cost: a smarter approach to gas infrastructure in Europe

by Jonathan Gaventa [@jonathangaventa](#), Manon Dufour [@ManonDf](#) and Luca Bergamaschi [@lucaberga](#)

March 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (32 p.)

A significant quantity of gas infrastructure is being planned in Europe, with security of supply often quoted as a key driver for new infrastructure. This infrastructure expansion comes despite recent reductions in EU gas consumption. Meeting EU energy and climate targets will require a reduction in fossil fuel use over time, raising questions about how new gas infrastructure is planned and prioritised in the energy transition. This report explores Europe's options.

Energy efficiency as infrastructure: leaping the investment gap

by Ada Ámon [@AdaAmon23](#) and Ingrid Holmes [@IngridHolmes7](#)

March 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (16 p.)

As Europe moves to implement the Paris Climate Agreement, two-thirds of its low carbon energy infrastructure investment in 2040 will need to be in energy efficiency. This briefing argues that the investment gap exists because, politically, we have failed to properly grasp the nature of the challenge. Going forward, energy efficiency needs to be redefined as a core part of Europe's energy infrastructure. This briefing outlines the arguments for this and the practical implications of moving forward with this proposal.

Zentrum für Europäische Wirtschaftsforschung (Centre for European Economic Research)

Renewable energy targets in the context of the EU ETS: whom do they benefit exactly?

by Florian Landis and Peter Heindl

16 March 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (51 p.)

The authors study how European climate and energy policy targets affect different Member States and households of different income quintiles within the Member States. They find that renewable energy targets in power generation, by reducing EU ETS permit prices, may make net permit exporters worse off and net permit importers better off. This effect appears to dominate the efficiency cost of increasing the share of energy provided by renewable energy sources in the countries that adopt such targets. If renewable targets reduce the revenues from ETS permit auctions, Member States with large allocations of auctionable permits will lose some of the ability to do so.

Ośrodek Studiów Wschodnich (Centre for Eastern Studies)

Zmierzch naftowego Eldorado. Ewolucja aktywności rosyjskich firm naftowych na rynku UE

by Szymon Kardaś [@szymonkardas](#)

March 2016

Link to the article in [Polish](#) (60 p.)

The EU is traditionally the most important market for the export of Russian oil. In the period between 2011-2014, a systematic decrease could be observed in the supply of crude oil to the EU while exports of petroleum products increased. The article argues that a coherent strategy that Russian oil has for the EU is not clear. Russian activity is more a result of the business interests of individual companies, rather than the result of coordinated action by the state.

Rahvusvaheline Kaitseuringute Keskus (International Centre for Defence Studies)

Impacts of climate policy on Estonian energy security

by Anna Bulakh [@Bulakh_Anna](#), Emmet Tuohy [@ectuohy](#) and Jordan Kearns.

24 March 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (38 p.)

Energy security and climate policy are two of the three pillars of Energy Trilemma, but they are not generally analysed together. Instead discussions are about the costs of implementing stricter climate policies or about the costs of different energy security projects, but this paper fills the gap that's formed. This analysis argues that implementing climate policy will no doubt bring additional costs. Therefore it is the role of the policymakers to minimize these costs and find optimal ways of moving from one type of energy system to another. The second thing they argue is that climate policy measures don't necessarily have negative impacts on energy security. Negative impacts can be avoided if climate policy takes into account the local circumstances and the actual needs and capabilities of the energy sector.

EMPLOYMENT/SOCIAL POLICY/HEALTH/CONSUMER AFFAIRS

Jacques Delors Institute - Berlin / Bertelsmann Stiftung

Labour mobility in the euro area: cure or curse for imbalances?

by Anna auf dem Brinke [@Anna_adB](#) and Paul-Jasper Dittrich [@paul2jasper](#)

1 March 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (10 p.) and in [German](#) (12 p.)

This paper looks at the years following the crisis of 2008, and how did labour mobility increase or decrease imbalances in the euro area. In times of low growth, the data suggest that labour mobility is rather a cure than a curse. However, its potential for the citizens of the currency area is not fully exploited yet. For labour mobility to play a role in the stabilization of the euro area against future asymmetric shocks much more policy action is needed. This is true for the national as well as the European level.

Foundation for European Progressive Studies

A European minimum wage policy

by Dimitris Tsarouhas [@dimitsar](#)

March 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (4 p.)

The debate on a minimum wage at EU level has taken off about a decade ago, but practical work towards its realization has been limited. Major EU Member States had been reluctant to follow that

path, let alone have an EU-wide policy on the subject. When the crisis hit, however, the debate intensified and the need for some form of EU-wide arrangement is becoming increasingly pressing.

The economic case for a minimum wage

by Rémi Bazillier [@remibaz](#)

March 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (4 p.)

The case for a European-wide minimum wage is strong as it minimizes the adverse effects of social dumping induced by pro-competitiveness policies conducted simultaneously by most European countries, according to the authors.

European Trade Union Institute

Work in the digital economy: sorting the old from the new

by Gérard Valenduc and Patricia Vendramin

March 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (52 p.) and in [French](#) (58 p.)

This paper sets out to analyse the digital economy and changes in work by sifting elements of continuity from others that are radically new. Aspects examined are: genuinely new features encountered in the digital economy model; major instances of technological change observable in the working environment; new forms of work in the digital economy; distance and employment relationships; challenges entailed in regulating a labour world shorn of its customary structures. The study concludes with some considerations on the meaning of work in environments characterised by an increasing interplay of the virtual and the real.

Benchmarking working Europe 2016

March 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (80 p.)

With this year's chosen focus – 'prepared for the future?' – the new edition of Benchmarking working Europe analyses the state of working Europe with the aid of a multi-level and multi-dimensional set of indicators. This 2016 edition is intended as one contribution to an assessment of what the EU current policies have achieved, or above all what they have not achieved, and hence as an evaluation of the extent to which the EU is prepared for the future. All four chapters of this report conclude on a negative note, and each puts forward suggestions for some appropriate policy changes.

Poverty Reduction in Europe: Social Policy and Innovation (ImPRovE)

The tsunamis of educational attainment and part-time employment, and the change of the labour force 1960–2010: what can be learned about self-reinforcing labour-market inequality from the case of the Netherlands, in international comparison?

by Wiemer Salverda

February 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (89 p.)

This paper argues that the sharp growth of educational attainment has won Tinbergen's race as the qualification structure of employment lags increasingly behind, with a large and increasing underutilisation of individual attainment on the job as a result. With its strong gender dimension this has fostered the demise of the single-earner model of society to the advantage of dual-earner households. That shift has gone together with a strong expansion of part-time employment, albeit at different speeds internationally. This case study is complemented with an international comparison using the ELFS and extending to incomes and earnings with the help of SILC. It shows

the presence of similar effects found for the Netherlands for Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Sweden and the UK.

The integration of place-based social innovations into the EU social agenda

by Gert Verschraegen and Sebastiano Sabato

March 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (23 p.)

This report examines how place-based socially innovative policies and actions can be better integrated into the broader EU social agenda. On the basis of previous work and a roundtable taking place in the context of the Improve project, it a) identifies some main challenges for up scaling and consolidating place-based social innovation throughout the European multi-level governance system; b) analyses whether social innovation dovetails with the broader European policy goals of territorial cohesion and public participation, and c) proposes some cautious policy recommendations with regard to how EU resources can be used to better support socially innovative practices.

Improving territorial cohesion: the role of stakeholders in OMC and cohesion policy

by Roberta Cucca and Yuri Kazepov

February 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (28 p.)

This literature review deals with a large body of articles, books and reports that have been produced over the last decade on the involvement of stakeholders and citizens in decision making processes, especially in Programmes concerning socio-economic dialogue, poverty and social exclusion at European Level, and social and territorial cohesion and – more recently – social innovation at regional and urban level.

Institut der deutschen Wirtschaft Köln (Cologne Institute for Economic Research)

The inequality-growth relationship - An empirical reassessment

by Galina Kolev and Judith Niehues

17 March 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (22 p.)

Recently, some influential empirical studies found evidence in favour of a negative relationship between income inequality and economic growth, implying the conclusion that inequality reducing policies will foster economic growth. The studies have in common that they all rely on the System GMM dynamic panel estimator. This paper argues that this estimator is most likely to suffer from a severe weak instrument problem in the inequality-growth setting because lagged differences of inequality have practically no explanatory power for current inequality levels. The papers finds instead evidence for a nonlinear relationship between inequality and growth when considering a sample of developed and developing economies.

Egmont – Royal Institute for International Relations

The rise of single motherhood in the EU: analysis and propositions

by Sophie Heine

March 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (11 p.)

This paper addresses a rising issue within the EU – the increase of single parent families. Firstly, it draws a general picture of the disadvantages faced by single parents and outline the possible causes of this phenomenon. Secondly, it attempts to sketch possible alternative solutions that could inspire policymakers at the national and European levels. Both in its analysis and

recommendations, it puts a particular emphasis on the dynamic role played by norms and representations.

Fondation Robert Schuman

Will Europe's leap forward come from women?

by Pascale Joannin [@PJoannin](#)

7 March 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (8 p.) and in [French](#) (9 p.)

For several years now studies have shown that women's situation in Europe, which is still one of the best in the world today, is improving but at a pace that is far too slow for us to be able to note any significant or outright progress. There has been no major event, no amazing step forward, not a whisper – a little like Europe itself as a whole.

Policy Network

Towards a new pensions settlement: the international experience

by Gregg McClymont [@greggmcclymont](#) and Andy Tarrant (eds.)

21 March 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (85 p.)

This paper presents the recent experiences of pension reform in seven countries: Australia, Canada, Germany, the Netherlands, Poland, Sweden and the UK. Faced with common problems of ageing societies and constraints on taxation levels, all are increasingly passing responsibility for saving for retirement to citizens. However, there is enormous variety between countries in the degree to which the state intervenes to mitigate the risks which the individual can face in saving for a pension.

ENVIRONMENT

Institut de relations internationales et stratégiques

Finance et climat : quels enjeux ?

by Alice Pauthier [@AlicePauthier](#)

9 March 2016

Link to the article in [French](#) (17 p.)

The COP21 has set ambitious goals, including raising additional funds through the Green Fund or calling that investments become compatible with mitigation and adaptation strategies to climate change. There is already a growing willingness of some governments like China to send a price-signal to investors; but the obstacles to widespread such mechanisms are still numerous. More flexible, private initiatives, including increased attention of the financial sector to climate risks, could contribute to rapidly reshape the allocation of international financial resources.

Ελληνικό Ίδρυμα Ευρωπαϊκής και Εξωτερικής Πολιτικής (Hellenic Foundation for European Foreign Policy)

EU and China: leadership after COP21

by Sophia Kalantzakos [@skalantzakos](#)

29 March 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (21 p.)

COP21 in Paris sparked a glimmer of hope that perhaps nations were finally ready to take on the climate crisis. The message of optimism now requires concrete action and steadfast commitment to a process that raises a number of crucial challenges: technological, political, social and

economic. As the crisis continues to grow, new robust leadership is imperative. This paper discusses why a close collaboration between the EU and China may result in the necessary push to solidify a concrete vision and a roadmap for our common future in the Anthropocene.

NewClimate Institute for Climate Policy and Global Sustainability

After Paris: what is next for Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs)?

by Frauke Röser [@fraukeroe](#), Thomas Day and Marie Kurdziel

9 March 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (6 p.)

This paper outlines what the Paris Agreement means for INDCs and what needs to happen at the country level now and in the longer term to implement the Agreement. The paper focuses explicitly on the mitigation part of national contributions and discusses specific steps in response to the relevant parts of the agreed framework including a view on how these may be supported internationally.

Challenges and lessons learned in the preparation of Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs)

by Marie Kurdziel, Thomas Day and Frauke Röser [@fraukeroe](#)

9 March 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (16 p.)

This document presents a synthesis of the main challenges and lessons learned from the preparation process of INDCs by Parties to the UNFCCC in the run up to Paris. The challenges and lessons learned from the INDC preparation process hold great relevance for the next steps regarding the implementation and further development of countries' nationally determined contributions, in terms of both clarity and ambition.

College of Europe

Something worth fighting for: the evolution of lobbying coalitions in the Emissions Trading System

by Crispin Mäenpää

March 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (57 p.)

This analysis attempts to understand who fought for influence within the EU's policy area of the Emissions Trading System (ETS), which constitutes a key aspect of the EU's climate change policy and is particularly important in light of the conclusions at the 2015 UNFCCC in Paris. The findings of this analysis provide a unique insight into how lobbying coalitions within a key EU policy area can form and develop.

Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies - European University Institute

Installation entries and exits in the EU ETS industrial sector

by Stefano F. Verde, Christoph Graf, Thijs Jong and Claudio Marcantonini

31 March 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (31 p.)

Focusing on the industrial sector of the EU ETS, this study identifies and analyses the entries and the exits of installations into and from the system over the period 2005-2013. Further, the study estimates a hazard model for the risk of an installation exiting the EU ETS, which identifies a number of different factors referring to the installation, the firm, and the economy, explaining the occurrence of this event. The evidence provided by the study and some of its methodological aspects may be useful for future attempts to identify investment leakage in the EU ETS.

Institute for European Environmental Policy

Study to analyse differences in costs of implementing EU policy across Member States

by Andrew Farmer, Emma Watkins, Sirini Withana, Kamila Paquel, Andrea Iles, Frans Oosterhuis, Onno Kuik, Rupert Haines, Matt Rayment, David McNeil, Maite Martínez-Granado and Patxi Greño
3 March 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (124 p.)

This report assesses if there are differences in the costs of implementation of EU environmental law across Member States. Identifying differences in the costs of implementation can show where there is scope for best practice to be adopted to cut costs. Both a literature review and case studies demonstrate that the EU environmental acquis places a range of obligations on public administrations, businesses and individuals leading to administrative costs.

Ecologic Institute / European Union Action to Fight Environmental Crime

Conclusions and recommendations on fighting environmental crime more effectively

March 2016

Link to the article in [English](#)

This report presents the conclusions and policy recommendations of the EU-funded research project "EU Action to Fight Environmental Crime" (EFFACE). The report includes recommendations for action to better combat environmental crime at EU and Member State level, distinguishing between core and supplementary recommendations. In addition to these recommendations, questions for further research are identified.

EDUCATION/YOUTH/CULTURE/SPORT

Institut Montaigne

Le numérique pour réussir dès l'école primaire

by Nicolas Harlé, Guillaume Combastet, Vincent Durand, Deborah Elalouf-Lewiner, Christophe Gomes, Ahmed Guenaoui and Arthur Muller

March 2016

Link to the article in [French](#) (142 p.)

This report aims to demonstrate that digital can meet the challenges that the school system is facing, as it allows to individualize instruction according to progress and difficulties of each student, to use the data collected to improve the performance of the education system and to promote independence and creativity of students.

Institut de relations internationales et stratégiques / European University Institute / Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies

Rethinking the place of religion in European secularized societies: the need for more open societies

by Olivier Roy

20 March 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (13 p.)

The contemporary debate on Islam both hides and reveals a deeper debate on the meaning of religion in a secular Europe. In fact, the more or less conflictual relationship with Islam compels Europeans to make explicit what "European values" they "oppose" to Islam. And because Europe cannot just revert to a previous stage where religion (in this case Christianity) was intimately linked with culture, it must rethink the place of religion in the public sphere and the definition of religious freedom, by accepting that a state of rights is not necessarily based upon a consensus on values.

SECTION 5 - FOREIGN AFFAIRS

FOREIGN AND SECURITY POLICY / DEFENCE

European Policy Centre

Europe's troublemakers - The populist challenge to foreign policy

by Rosa Balfour [@RosaBalfour](#), Janis A. Emmanouilidis [@jaemmanouilidis](#), Catherine Fieschi [@CFieschi](#), Heather Grabbe [@HeatherGrabbe](#), Christopher Hill, Timo Lochocki [@TLochocki](#), Marie Mendras [@MarieMendras](#), Cas Mudde [@CasMudde](#), Mari K. Niemi [@MariKNiemi](#), Juliane Schmidt [juleschmidt90](#) and Corina Stratulat

8 March 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (78 p.)

The growing focus on internal affairs and crisis-related 'navel-gazing' by politicians in various Member States is influencing countries' strategies and interactions with their European counterparts and non-EU partners, as well as the Union's voice and leverage abroad. This report aims to go beyond individual domestic considerations to build a nuanced, inter-disciplinary and general understanding of the populist phenomenon in Europe and its impact on foreign policy formulation and processes.

Mendel European Centre

Do we need an EU army? Which way for the European security and defence cooperation

by Tomáš Weiss

March 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (16 p.)

According to the author, an European army is not a feasible concept at the moment and should not be raised in public discussion. Instead, minilateral cooperation among EU Member States is a more feasible way forward for European defence than dream about "European army". The lack of interoperability and capability to invest together is the real problem of European defence, not just the amount of money spent on defence. Also, treaty restrictions and sovereignty concerns prevent the EU from taking a bolder and more revolutionary step forward in common defence policy.

Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (Friedrich Ebert Foundation) / Institut de relations internationales et stratégiques

Frankreich, Deutschland und die gemeinsame europäische Verteidigungspolitik

by Jean-Pierre Maulny

March 2016

Link to the article in [German](#) (6 p.) and in [French](#) (8 p.)

If France considers the European construction process of defence as a multiplication of its power, and thus favours an intergovernmental type scheme, Germany rather sees it as a way to frame its power and therefore favours a federalist construction logic. The CFSP was born at a time when the enemy disappears: the perspective of a common defence policy is all the more likely to become a reality, as much as NATO and the US play a less important role in the security of Europeans.

European Union Institute for Security Studies

European defence spending 2015: the force awakens

by Zoe Stanley-Lockman and Katharina Wolf

15 March 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (4 p.)

As the repercussions of the deteriorating security situation in neighbouring regions are felt back home in the EU, there are signs that Europeans are adjusting their strategic calculations. According to the IISS annual assessment of global military capabilities and defence economics, the free fall of military outlays, which has characterised Europe's spending priorities during most of the post-Cold war period, is finally slowing down.

For EU eyes only? Intelligence and European security

by Björn Fägersten [@BFagersten](#)

4 March 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (4 p.)

Some of the immediate reactions to the November 2015 terrorist attacks in Paris called for new structures and mandates for intelligence and security service cooperation in Europe. These calls are neither new nor surprising. Indeed, every time a new threat to European security emerges, similar voices have been heard. Too often, however, calls for more cooperation in this domain tend to underestimate the challenges and overestimate the benefits of their suggested design. This does not mean that cooperation in the field of intelligence and 'homeland' security cannot be developed further. On the contrary, EU Member States have taken fairly drastic steps over the last 15 years – and more could be done.

New kids on the CFSP block: the JHA agencies

by Florian Trauner [@ftrauner](#)

3 March 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (4 p.)

Given the mounting security challenges facing the Union, EU governments have announced their intention to upgrade Europe's Justice and home affairs agencies, notably the European Police Office, Europol as well as the EU's border management agency, Frontex.

International Centre for Counter-Terrorism - The Hague

The Islamic State's global propaganda strategy

by Daveed Gartenstein-Ross, Nathaniel Barr and Bridget Moreng

31 March 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (84 p.)

This paper aims to analyse in depth the global propaganda strategy of the so-called "Islamic State" (IS) by looking at the methods through which this grand strategy is carried out as well as the objectives that IS wants to achieve through it. The paper offers a menu of policy options that stakeholders can implement to counter IS' global propaganda efforts.

Foundation for European Progressive Studies / Fondazione Italianeuropei

Daesh and the terrorist threat: from the Middle East to Europe

by Hedwig Giusto (ed.)

8 March 2016

Link to the book in [English](#) (192 p.)

This paper aims to provide insight into the origins, evolution, principal characteristics, and unique means of recruitment and financing of Islamic terrorist organisations. Moreover, it examines the diffusion of Islamic radicalisation among young Europeans and of the foreign fighters, who, in growing numbers, leave their home countries to join Daesh. [Link](#) to the conclusion by Massimo D'Alema.

New America Foundation

ISIS in the West - The Western militant flow to Syria and Iraq

by Albert Ford, Alyssa Gabrielle Sims, David Sterman [@Dsterms](#) and Peter Bergen

25 March 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (36 p.)

The links between the Paris attackers and the Brussels terrorists raises the importance of understanding who the Western "foreign fighters" who have left for Syria are, how deep their networks run, and what threat they pose when they return to the West.

Norsk Utenrikspolitisk Institutt (The Norwegian Institute of International Affairs)

The European Union and peacebuilding

by Eli Stamnes

3 March 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (14 p.)

The EU efforts to promote and preserve peace beyond its borders – in nearby regions, in areas where Member States have interests or where conflict issues are particularly pressing, as well as in locations where other peacebuilding actors such as the UN and AU have requested assistance, is the focus of this paper.

'Teach a person how to surf' - Cyber security as development assistance

by Niels Nagelhus Schia [@nielsschia](#)

31 March 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (37 p.)

This report examines the new societal vulnerabilities emerging from digitalization in developing countries. While there is wide agreement about the need to bridge the gap between the connected and the disconnected, the pitfalls are many, especially concerning cyber security – a topic often neglected.

Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik (German Institute for International and Security Affairs)

Sorgfaltsverantwortung im Cyberraum : Leitlinien für eine deutsche Cyber-Außen- und Sicherheitspolitik

by Annegret Bendiek [@annegretbendiek](#)

March 2016

Link to the article in [German](#) (34 p.)

The global cyberspace is undergoing a fundamental change. While the awareness is rising that a free, open and secure Internet is a global public right, the political regulations will always stay

behind technological developments. For the future strategic orientation Germany's in the cyberspace this leads to three requirements: European cooperation, inclusiveness of different stakeholders, and the primacy of the civil over the military component. In order to avoid confusion about German interests in the cyberspace, the responsibilities on national and EU-level need to be better coordinated and communicated.

Center of Strategic and Budgetary Assessments

Rethinking Armageddon - Scenario planning in the second nuclear age

by Andrew F. Krepinevich and Jacob Cohn

1 March 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (148 p.)

The authors propose a scenario-based assessment of the competitive dynamics of the second nuclear age. The assessment explores, among other things, the implications for extended deterrence, crisis stability, missile defence, prompt conventional global strike and growing multipolar. The paper also includes an analysis of the implications for US interests, with an emphasis on preserving the seventy-one-year tradition of non-use of nuclear weapons (since their only use in 1945), also known as the 'nuclear taboo'.

GEOPOLITICS AND STRATEGY

Egmont – Royal Institute for International Relations

The global strategy – Reinvigorating the EU's multilateral agenda?

by Balazs Ujvari [@balazs_iravju](#)

23 March 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (7 p.)

The EU's effective multilateralism doctrine is hardly a defining characteristic of the international system of today. While established multilateral structures are far from reflective of the realities of the twenty-first century, multilateral practices remain dominant in most parts of the world. Multilateralism, however, carries a different meaning to different actors. Emerging powers have become increasingly assertive in promoting their own multilateral approach and now set the pace in international affairs. The EU remains, nonetheless, well-placed to respond to this challenge through a revision of its multilateral agenda.

Rahvusvaheline Kaitseuringute Keskus (International Centre for Defence Studies)

The European Union global strategy: how best to adapt to new challenges?

by Helga Kalm [@helgakalm](#), Jüri Luik [@juri_luik](#), Anna Bulakh [@Bulakh Anna](#), Piret Pernik [@PiretPernik](#) and Henrik Praks [@HenrikPraks](#)

4 March 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (6 p.)

The writing of the new EU Global Strategy comes at a difficult time. The world has become more and more volatile and there are crises on Europe's eastern, south-eastern and southern flanks. Although the conflicts in the south and the east are very different in nature, they both highlight the need for the EU to strengthen its foreign and security policy to better respond to a hybrid blend of challenges, which involve military and non-military, conventional and unconventional methods and tactics.

German Marshall Fund of the United States

Solidarity under stress in the Transatlantic realm

by Alexandra de Hoop Scheffer, Martin Michelot [@martinmichelot](#) and Martin Quencez

14 March 2016

Link to the publication in [English](#) (32 p.)

Two years after the Wales NATO Summit, important steps have been taken to reassure NATO Allies, notably in Central and Eastern Europe. NATO's February 2016 defence ministerial and the planned increase of the US commitment to embattled Allies both signal a strong change in the Alliance's posture toward Russia and the threats of an unstable southern neighbourhood. New strategic surprises will continue to challenge the paradigms on which the transatlantic security partnership has been built, and the Warsaw Summit is expected to be critical in enacting the necessary adaptation of the Alliance, by showing progress in three complementary aspects: solidarity, credibility and flexibility.

The awakening of societies in Turkey and Ukraine: how Germany and Poland can shape European responses

by Adam Balcer and Joerg Forbrig [@JoergForbrig](#)

31 March 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (45 p.)

Among the EU's neighbours to the east and southeast, Turkey and Ukraine clearly stand out in their strategic importance. Both countries are central to the broader confrontation between Russia and the West, Turkey holds the keys to Europe's managing the refugee crisis and to Western engagement with Near Eastern conflicts, and Ukraine is as important a trendsetter for developments in the post-Soviet space. In this policy paper the authors argue for joint Polish and German initiatives to reinvigorate European policies toward Turkey and Ukraine.

Defending a fraying order: the imperative of closer U.S.-Europe-Japan cooperation

by Daniel Twining (ed.) [@DCTwining](#), John Lee, Patrick Chovanec [@prchovanec](#), Julia M. Macdonald and Volker Stanzel [@StvIL](#)

31 March 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (39 p.)

Japan, Europe, and the US are the leading stakeholders in the liberal international order constructed after 1945 and consolidated after 1989. That order is now fraying, partly at the hands of actors that have benefited most from the long period of peace. This collection assesses dynamics that are eroding the liberal international order and proposes ways in which the US, Europe, and Japan can cooperate more closely to bolster a system that best protects their common interests and values.

Nederlands Instituut voor Internationale Betrekkingen - Clingendael (Netherlands Institute of International Relations)

A South China Sea conflict: implications for European security - A scenario study

by Peter van Ham, Francesco Saverio Montesano and Frans Paul van der Putten

7 March 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (38 p.)

How would a major security crisis in East Asia affect the security position of the EU? This report offers a scenario-based case study, and then proceeds to discuss its implications for European security, with particular focus on the strategic interplay between the EU and the other key powers involved: China; the US; and Russia.

Institut de relations internationales et stratégiques

Implication croissante du secteur privé dans le système de réponse humanitaire : risques et opportunités

by Éric Berseth and Vincent Mudry

16 March 2016

Link to the article in [French](#) (12 p.)

The "private sector" is a broad term covering different actors - small individual donors, wealthy individuals, foundations, businesses - contributing to humanitarian causes in different ways and for different reasons. It is a sector that is currently undergoing a mutation. The multiplicity of approaches and intervention logics do not make a homogeneous entity, but nevertheless contain some kind of consistency in the role private sector claims to have in the collective responsibility to respond to humanitarian tragedies. The arrival of new players in the sector, where the roles were previously well defined, shuffles the functions among counterparts. The article aims at grasping this change.

TRADE

Centre for European Policy Studies

TTIP and public procurement: going beyond the tip of the iceberg

by Lucian Cernat [@Lucian_Cernat](#) and Zornitsa Kutlina-Dimitrova

March 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (7 p.)

This article makes four basic points: i) Public procurement is a key area of trade negotiations, and the TTIP is no exception to this rule; ii) The existing levels of openness in procurement markets need to be assessed across all three main procurement modalities and not based only on direct cross-border procurement, which is not the main procurement avenue. According to this comprehensive metric, the EU market already has a high foreign participation rate, including by US companies; iii) Unfortunately, similar data do not exist for the US market. But there is growing evidence of discriminatory measures introduced in recent years, which impede the ability of EU firms to compete on a level-playing field in US procurement markets; iv) The importance of procurement as a key negotiating area requires better data and a greater analytical engagement.

College of Europe

Going beyond pure economics: the EU's strategic motivation to negotiate the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP)

by Tobias Kellner

March 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (55 p.)

The aim of this paper is to look at the TTIP from different angles. Referred to as being more than just a classic free trade agreement, TTIP goes beyond what we have seen in international trade by the EU so far. If that is true, it is crucial to see what motivations the EU has to negotiate TTIP and understand why the negotiations take place at this moment. Conducting twenty expert interviews and relating their outcome with three working hypotheses, the author find strong evidence for a strategic rationale in TTIP, especially with a realist emphasis.

Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (Friedrich Ebert Foundation)

Lost in a spaghetti bowl? Mega-regional trade agreements, Sub-Saharan Africa and the future of the WTO

by Eveline Herfkens

March 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (10 p.)

This paper will begin by exploring the implications of the mega-regional agreements for the future of the WTO and will go on to recommend a number of steps that developed countries can take to mitigate the negative impact of these agreements on developing countries, with a focus on TTIP and sub-Saharan Africa.

CETA – eine sozialdemokratische Perspektive aus Kanada

by Raoul Gebert

March 2016

Link to the article in [German](#) (5 p.)

This paper provides a social democratic reflection on the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) between Canada and the EU. CETA is the most ambitious free trade project of the Canadian government since NAFTA. It will enable Canada to connect deeper and faster with Europe, its second most important market.

Euro-Mediterranean Study Commission / European Institute of the Mediterranean

Mapping out the scope and contents of the DCFTAs with Tunisia and Morocco

by Guillaume Van der Loo

March 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (42 p.)

This paper will explore the potential scope and contents of the "Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Areas" (DCFTAs) that the EU is envisaging with Morocco and Tunisia. First, this contribution will review the current framework of these countries' trade relationship with the EU. Second, the key principles and mechanisms of the DCFTAs will be assessed. The author will then introduce a comparative approach, analysing the potential scope and contents of the Tunisia and Morocco DCFTAs in the light of the DCFTAs that the EU has recently concluded with Ukraine, Moldova and Georgia.

DEVELOPMENT

Barcelona Centre for International Affairs

Con la Agenda Global de Desarrollo Sostenible ¿se dibuja un mejor horizonte para 2030?

by Andrea Costafreda [@drewcostafreda](#)

March 2016

Link to the article in [Spanish](#) (6 p.)

The global sustainable development agenda is increasingly linked to an agenda for the provision of global public goods - provision of international health, human security, combating climate change or self-regulation of the international financial system. The new framework of commitments should be seen more as a move towards a more comprehensive and universal agenda and has managed to solve some of the major deficits of the Millennium Sustainable Development Goals. The poor are now concentrated in fragile states (18%) and middle-income countries (60.4%), and only 7% remaining in what could be called "traditional developing countries". This reality imposes for the first time demands on emerging economies and new MICs: have shown up with a formula to grow but now must prove that growth can be inclusive.

EUROPEAN NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICY

Jacques Delors Institute - Berlin

Taking ENP beyond the conception-performance gap

by Nicole Koenig [@Nic_Koenig](#)

22 March 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (20 p.) and in [German](#) (22 p.)

This paper reviews the first decade of the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP), analyses the review of November 2015 and formulates recommendations for the policy's future implementation. The paper argues that the ENP has suffered from a 'conception-performance gap'. Conceived to foster peace, stability and prosperity at the EU's borders, the EU now finds itself surrounded by a ring of crises and conflicts.

EASTERN PARTNERSHIP

Centre for European Policy Studies

Why Moldova's European integration is failing

by Hrant Kostanyan [@HrantKostanyan](#)

3 March 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (4 p.)

As anti-government demonstrations continued in Chisinau, EU Foreign Ministers reaffirmed their support for Moldova's political association and economic integration with the EU in the Council conclusions of 15 February 2016. The ministers also confirmed that all 28 EU Member States have ratified the Association Agreement between Moldova and the EU. Despite this progress, Moldova's European integration project is in tatters. The author proposes an analysis of domestic and external factors which might shed some light on this question.

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Auswärtige Politik (German Council on Foreign Relations)

Moldova at an impasse: can the formation of the latest government forestall crisis?

by Sarah Pagung

22 March 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (4 p.)

The author notes that European and Moldovan politicians both tend to reduce Moldovan politics – and the EU's policy toward the country – to a simple formula: 'EU vs. Eurasian Union'. While the debate about the direction of Moldova's foreign policy is certainly of enormous importance, the author recalls that it tends to distract from two other significant facts: the country's longstanding corruption and its inability to push through effective reforms. The author considers that corruption and self-interest of Moldova's political elite consistently impede the development of the small Eastern European country and its rapprochement with the EU.

Expert-Grup

Monitorul financiar #1: rezultatele monitorizării reformelor recente în domeniul financiar-banc

by Adrian Lupușor [@AdrianLupusor](#)

29 March 2016

Link to the article in [Romanian](#) (15 p.)

This paper assesses the Moldavian response to the banking crisis. The monitoring process covered four major actions: (1) the Financial-Banking Package, adopted by the Parliament at 25 February 2016; (2) Project for the Roadmap on priority reforms' Agenda, adopted at 25 February

2016; (3) Call for selecting the Governor of the National Bank of Moldova (NBM); (4) Technical assistance in the financial-banking sector. For each of these activities, the authors came up with specific feedback and recommendations.

The National Committee on Financial Stability. Why and how to reform it

by Radu Marian [@radumarian27](#) and Adrian Lupușor [@AdrianLupusor](#)

23 March 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (13 p.) and in [Romanian](#) (13 p.)

Recent international experience reveals that a key ingredient in safeguarding financial stability consists of closer communication and coordination among relevant agencies. With that purpose, countries all over the world resorted to the creation of financial stability committees. This paper assesses the National Committee on Financial Stability in Moldova that was created in 2010 in response to the financial crisis. Furthermore the authors make suggestions for reform.

AFRICA

London School of Economics / Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (Friedrich Ebert Foundation)

EU policies in the Democratic Republic of Congo: try and fail?

by Valerie Arnould [@ValerieArnould](#) and Koen Vlassenroot [@kvlassen](#)

23 March 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (22 p.)

This paper takes a critical look at EU policies in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and their contribution to advancing human security in the country. It argues that an overly narrow approach to state building, the lack of a comprehensive political strategy, and domestic resistance to reform have significantly constrained the ability of EU policies to produce sustainable change.

European Centre for Development Policy Management

Peacebuilding, conflict prevention and conflict monitoring in the African Peace and Security Architecture

by Sophie Desmidt [@SophieDesmidt](#)

March 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (15 p.)

This article sheds light on the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA) and makes reference to the work of ECDPM's SECURE programme on peacebuilding, conflict prevention and conflict monitoring in relation to the APSA. It also informs how we connect with other ECDPM work regarding conflict prevention, governance and political economy analysis of regional integration in Africa.

Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik (German Institute for International and Security Affairs)

Afrika und der Internationale Strafgerichtshof : Vom Konflikt zur politischen Selbstbehauptung

by Denis M. Tull [@dennis_tull](#) and Annette Weber [@annetteweber1](#)

March 2016

Link to the article in [German](#) (32 p.)

The establishment of the International Criminal Court (ICC) in 2002 was considered a breakthrough in the global fight against war crimes, genocide and crimes against humanity. Today, the ICC is facing an existential crisis: major powers like the US, China and Russia refuse still its accession to the Rome Statute, which forms the contractual basis of the tribunal, and now the African countries have become the main block of the critics, under the umbrella of the African Union mobilizing an increasingly massive opposition to the Court.

ASIA-OCEANIA

International Institute for Strategic Studies / Институт мировой экономики и международных отношений Российской академии наук (Institute of World Economy and International Relations of the Russian Academy of Science)

The US and Russia in the Asia-Pacific

by Samuel Charap [@scharap](#), John Drennan, Yevgeny Kanaev, Sergey Lukonin, Vasily Mikheev, Vitaly Shvydko, Kristina Voda and Feodor Voitlovsky [@voitlovsky](#)

March 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (24 p.)

The product of over two years of Track II dialogue, this new report was launched at IISS-US where participants discussed how the US and Russia both depend on developments in the Asia-Pacific for their future prosperity and security.

European Union Institute for Security Studies

South Asian integration: prospects and pitfalls

by Gareth Price

30 March 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (4 p.)

Narendra Modi's decision to invite leaders of all the members of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation to his May 2014 swearing-in as prime minister sparked optimism about the prospects for greater regional engagement. However, three months later India broke off dialogue with Pakistan, and it has only recently re-started talks about talks. In the early years after independence, around 70% of goods produced in Pakistan were exported to India. Now that figure stands at less than 5%. And despite the widespread acceptance of the potential economic benefits that could accrue from enhanced regional trade, political differences, along with genuine fears regarding competitiveness, have delayed concrete action.

Centre for European Policy Studies

How to boost EU-India relations

by Stefania Benaglia [@stebenaglia](#)

29 March 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (8 p.)

The author of this paper argues that the EU and India need to move beyond the economic and bureaucratic limitations that currently characterise their relations and to work towards a reconciliation of different priorities that would be of benefit to both partners.

Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik (German Institute for International and Security Affairs)

Indien und seine Global-Governance-Politik

by Christian Wagner

March 2016

Link to the article in [German](#) (32 p.)

India is a key player in many areas of global governance. Without the active cooperation with India no sustainable success in international climate, environmental and energy agreements or the global fight against poverty are to be achieved. However, India remains a difficult partner for Western countries. India was instrumental in the emergence of new formats such as BRICS and BASIC, and is now trying to impose its national interests in these forums. Unlike countries such as

China and Russia India understands these bodies but not as an alternative to Western institutions, but rather as complementary mechanisms of regulations in the individual policy areas.

BRICS

Institut français des relations internationales

The illusion of convergence - Russia, China, and the BRICS

by Bobo Lo

March 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (29 p.) and in [French](#) (29 p.)

The discussion about the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa) opposes two narratives. The first considers they play an increasing role in the international relations as the West is loosing power; the other sees the BRICS as a charade. But the key role played by the interaction between Russia and China is an evidence shared by most experts.

La Vie des Idées

BRICs et émergents : les nouveaux investisseurs internationaux

by Wladimir Andreff

9 March 2016

Link to the article in [French](#) (7 p.)

As a consequence of the rapid growth of BRICs and emerging countries, they have a growing role in the global economy as international investors. However, behind common characteristics, the dynamics and conditions of their investments as well as the strategies of their multinationals are very contrasting.

MTA Közgazdaság- és Regionális Tudományi Kutatóközpont - Világgazdasági Intézet (Centre for Economic and Regional Studies HAS - Institute of World Economics) / Polski Instytut Spraw Międzynarodowych (Polish Institute of International Affairs)

V4 goes global: exploring opportunities and obstacles in the Visegrad Countries' cooperation with Brazil, India, China and South Africa

by Patryk Kugiel [@PKugiel](#) (ed.)

March 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (89 p.)

Cooperation with emerging non-European powers: China, India, Brazil and South Africa can become a new important dimension of the Visegrad Group international role. However, to realize this potential Visegrad countries would need to overcome their economic competition and political rivalry first. Effectiveness of the global engagements of the Group will further depend on its internal strength and cohesion as well as ability to speak with one voice on issues important to foreign partners.

CHINA

Foundation for European Progressive Studies

Back to the future: China's 'One Belt, One Road' initiative

by Vassilis Ntousas [@VNtousas](#)

March 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (13 p.)

Since its introduction in the fall of 2013, China's 'One Belt, One Road' (OBOR) initiative has been the centre of a plethora of in-depth analyses and policy announcements. Heralded by many as a centrepiece of President Xi Jinping's foreign policy and domestic economic strategy, this grandiose initiative has certainly captured the attention of many policy-makers, analysts and commentators, marking a significant milestone in the country's trajectory of engagement in the international milieu. Whether China's grand design for its new trade routes will ultimately become a game-changer remains to be seen, yet its 'back-to-the-future' approach contained in its OBOR policy presents many potential benefits for Beijing, despite the evident risks.

S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies

China's One Belt One Road: has the European Union missed the train?

by Alessandro Arduino

March 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (20 p.)

This Policy Report focuses on the overland routes that connect China to Europe via Central Asia and it aims to answer the question whether the EU should engage China in the OBOR initiative. The expansion of the OBOR initiative is forcing China's economic diplomacy to embrace a broader political and security engagement. While Russia and the US are revising their roles in South and Central Asia, the EU has lost momentum.

China and the Middle East: venturing into the maelstrom

by James M. Dorsey

March 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (49 p.)

The article aims at describing the impact of China's increasingly significant economic and security interests in the Middle East. It affects not only its energy security but also its regional posture, relations with regional powers as well as the US, and efforts to pacify nationalist and Islamist Uighurs in its north-western province of Xinjiang. Those interests are considerably enhanced by China's One Belt, One Road initiative that seeks to patch together a Eurasian land mass through inter-linked infrastructure, investment and expanded trade relations.

E3G

Pulling ahead on clean technology: China's 13th five year plan challenges Europe's low carbon competitiveness

by Shin Wei Ng, Nick Mabey [@Mabeytweet](#) and Jonathan Gaventa [@jonathangaventa](#)

March 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (12 p.)

In March 2016, China published its official 13th Five-Year Plan, which sets out their development pathway from 2016 to 2020. This Plan builds upon the previous five years and aims to create a strong foundation for China's green, robust and resilient economy over the next two decades. China has caught up to and overtaken the EU across a range of low carbon economic sectors,

including clean energy investment, R&D spending, power transmission grids and production and sales of electric vehicles. The new 5 year plan accelerates these trends.

European Council on Foreign Relations

Xi's army: reform and loyalty in the PLA

by Jérôme Doyon [@doyon_jerome](#) and Mathieu Duchâtel [@mtdtl](#)

30 March 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (14 p.)

A politically reliable and modern force capable of joint operations – this is what China wants to achieve with its ambitious reforms of the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA). The reforms, which are scheduled to be completed by 2020, represent no less than a major restructuring of the organisation - including a downsizing of the force. The planned restructuring will result in a radical redistribution of power, which will negatively impact some individuals and constituencies and will empower others. While the outcomes remain unknown, the reforms look set to strengthen central party control over the military through the Central Military Commission and increase the political clout of the PLA's various services at the expense of the Army (land forces).

Royal United Services Institute

China's approach to soft power: seeking a balance between nationalism, legitimacy and international influence

by Osamu Sayama

March 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (18 p.)

The West has long recognised that soft power can be an inexpensive and low-risk route to influencing others. In 2007 soft power was identified as an important feature of China's national policy. It has since sought to articulate its own theoretical basis for soft power and has made a concerted effort to increase its soft-power activities around the world. This paper argues that China's soft power is based on a combination of modern Marxist and ancient Confucian thought.

Upgrading to a new, rigorous system: recent developments in China's export controls

by Xiaoming Liu

March 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (37 p.)

The proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems continues to be a serious threat to international security and stability. The deepening process of economic and supply-chain globalisation, e-commerce and rapid flows of trade and people have allowed proliferation activities to become more sophisticated and less visible. One country cannot deal with proliferation by itself. China, as a country with a growing industrial production base, is a critical link in the international non-proliferation regime. This paper examines China's contemporary export-control practices, challenges and the recent efforts to improve the export-control system. It also identifies trends in the development of China's export controls and outlines the importance of the country's integration with global non-proliferation endeavours.

EASTERN EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA

Institut de relations internationales et stratégiques

Asie Centrale, essai de prospective à court et moyen termes : "les jeux sont faits... ou presque !"

by René Cagnat, David Gaüzere and Sergheï Massaoulov

30 March 2016

Link to the article in [French](#) (12 p.)

According to Afghan perspective, Central Asia could experience a decisive change in its security situation next year: the present crisis affecting Tajikistan will result in an Islamic offensive from northern Afghanistan. If successful - even partial - for the Islamists, other central Asian countries would experience a certain destabilization. The authors also ponder on the possibility of a natural disaster that might threaten the south of Turanian basin.

LATIN AMERICA

Consejo Uruguayo para las Relaciones Internacionales

Una mirada más cercana al Fondo Estatal de Petróleo de la República de Azerbaiyán

by Ramiro Rodríguez Bausero

18 March 2016

Link to the article in [Spanish](#) (16 p.)

The apparent existence of oil and gas - in profitable commercial quantities - in the continental shelf of Uruguay has originated a national debate on the need to define future strategies in case the country passes to be part of the producing states of this important energy resource. In this context, the author presents an analysis on the Azerbaijani experience to illustrate how this country has been managing this energy resource.

MIDDLE EAST/NORTH AFRICA (MENA)

Euro-Mediterranean Study Commission / European Institute of the Mediterranean

The EU and conflict resolution in the Mediterranean neighbourhood: tackling new realities through old means?

by Silvia Colombo and Daniela Huber

March 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (47 p.)

This paper discusses the extent to which the EU's conflict-related aims and practices in the Mediterranean region have changed since the Arab uprisings and how. It presents an overview of the ways in which the EU dealt with two inter-state conflicts (Israel/Palestine and Western Sahara) until 2011. Furthermore, it examines the changes and continuities of the EU's approach to address those two inter-state conflicts as well as three intra-state conflicts (Libya, Egypt and Syria) in the wake of the Arab uprisings, by focusing on the nature of the cleavages, the actors involved, and the aims and concrete actions undertaken by the EU to cope with them. It concludes with policy recommendations, highlighting the potential contribution of regionalism and inter-regionalism as part of the EU's tool kit to address conflicts in the Mediterranean Neighbourhood.

Centre for European Policy Studies

A stable Libya would close the door to Daesh

by Giovanni Faleg [@gioFALEG](#)

March 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (6 p.)

Since the fall of the Gaddafi regime in 2011, everything has seemed to conspire against the transition process in Libya. The idea of a stabilisation force has met political resistance in most European countries, because there is little appetite for long-term interventions that carry a high risk of casualties. The author argues that, among other initiatives, ground forces are nevertheless a necessary component of stabilisation in this fragile country. He makes four recommendations to guide the engagement of external actors.

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Auswärtige Politik (German Council on Foreign Relations)

The Egyptian Muslim Brotherhood in 2016: scenarios and recommendations

by Abdelrahman Ayyash [@3yyash](#) and Victor J. Willi [@victorjwilli](#)

15 March 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (6 p.)

This report has the objective to provide an overview of the current state of Egypt's national scene in general, and the Muslim Brotherhood (MB) in particular; second, to outline three scenarios for how the MB may evolve in the short to medium term; and finally, to recommend measures that may guide the thinking of policymakers and support them as they stay abreast of the highly dynamic political situation in Egypt.

Nederlands Instituut voor Internationale Betrekkingen - Clingendael (Netherlands Institute of International Relations)

Iraq at War (again) - Perspectives and options for a long-term counter-terrorism and counter violent extremism strategy in Iraq

by Grégory Chauzal and Sofia Zavagli

March 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (30 p.)

In this report the authors shed their light on the situation in Iraq: what is the state of the conflict and what can be achieved against IS within the current military efforts? In a medium-term perspective, their report explores options for transitioning from a military campaign to a stabilization strategy that concurrently encompasses CT tools and CVE programmes. As the situation in Iraq is volatile at both the political and security levels, the report goes on to list the scenarios and main obstacles that could question, at local and regional levels, the implementation of a long-term stabilization strategy. Finally, the report's conclusions highlight the major entry points and recommendations for a sustainable stabilization involvement in Iraq.

Overview Syrian peace talks

by Ron Ton, Wilbur Perlot and Hans Wurzer

9 March 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (6 p.)

On March 9 2016 a new round of talks was scheduled to start in Geneva between representatives of the Syrian government and opposition forces. These talks were facilitated by Staffan de Mistura, the Special Envoy of the UN Secretary General for Syria. In this overview, published previous to the round of talks, the authors indicated where the talks were, and where they might be heading.

La Vie des Idées

Syrie : la stratégie de la destruction

by Leïla Vignal [@Leilavignal](#)

29 March 2016

Link to the article in [French](#) (13 p.)

For five years now, the Syrian population has been the subject of intense repression by a regime that applies a massive destruction policy, forcing more than half of the Syrians to leave their homes and seriously threatening the future of a country emptied of its forces. The paper analyses how this massive destruction policy is at the core of the Syrian regime's military strategy, leading to a fragmented territory, spatially and socially. Reconstruction in Syria will need a public solution, more than a simple military and temporary truth.

Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik (German Institute for International and Security Affairs)

#HashtagSolidarities: Twitter debates and networks in the MENA region

by Mareike Transfeld [@projectyemen](#) and Isabelle Werenfels [@iswerenfelsi](#)

March 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (62 p.)

During the course of the so-called Arab Spring, observers were quick to refer to the uprisings as "Facebook revolutions" or "Twitter revolutions". Although the important role of social media in the 2011 upheavals in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) is widely acknowledged, its impact on political processes in the region remains contested and contradictory. Rather than looking at social media through a transformation or security lens, this research focused on how debates on three events in the MENA region – the emergence of a video of a rape on Cairo's Tahrir Square in June 2014, anti-fracking protests in southern Algeria in early 2015, and Saudi Arabia's military intervention in Yemen in March 2015 – unfolded on Twitter. Closely tracing Twitter debates on these incidents shed light on Twitter's role in important social and political discussions as well as on the scope and patterns of Twitter networks and digital solidarities. The research also revealed that the breadth of opinion on Twitter far exceeds that of traditional media in the MENA region, and the more repressive a context, the more important Twitter becomes.

Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung

A difficult nexus of relationships? Study: a comprehensive view of the USA, Germany, Israel and the Palestinian Territories

by Michael Borchard, Lars Hänsel and Marc Frings [@mpfrings](#)

March 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (24 p.) and in [German](#) (25 p.)

This study deals with the Israeli and Palestinian view on Germany and on the USA as well as the perspectives of the American population on the Middle East and the role of Germany. With this study, the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung and its offices in Israel and the Palestinian Territories draw on the success of its examination "the Holy Land and the Germans" which was presented in January 2015. Alongside the survey in Israel and the Palestinian Territories, a representative survey was also carried out in the US. The study was laid out in such a way that even particular statements could be made about the attitudes of Jewish Americans and Americans with an Arabic migration history.

RUSSIA

Ulkopoliittinen instituutti (Finnish Institute of International Affairs)

Moscow's Arctic dreams turned sour? Analysing Russia's policies in the Arctic

by Juha Kämpylä, Harri Mikkola and Toivo Martikainen [@martikain](#)

11 March 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (8 p.)

This paper maps out the current dynamics of Russian Arctic policy with the focus on the economy, security and governance. It starts by analysing the domestic developments that influence Russia's Arctic policies and then turns to Moscow's economic ambitions in the region and the key challenges that hinder their realisation. Furthermore the authors argue that the ongoing security dynamics have increased uncertainty in the Arctic. Finally, the paper explores Russia's role in international Arctic governance.

Dividing the EU with energy? Unpacking Russia's energy geoeconomics

by Toivo Martikainen [@martikain](#) and Antto Vihma

1 March 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (8 p.)

The objective of this paper is to provide an overview of the current Russian energy projects in the EU and to analyse the domestic drivers for geoeconomic projects. The paper argues that although the need for commercial realism is strong in the era of economic difficulties, the Russian leadership is committed to keeping energy flows in the servitude of strategic and tactical objectives. This poses distinct challenges for the EU and many of its Member States. However, the authors argue that by recognising the state of affairs, the EU can increase its unity in external energy policy, control some of the political risks, and build a more resilient energy system.

Vrije Universiteit Brussel - Institute for European Studies

Confuse, divide and rule - How Russia drives Europe apart

by Sijbren de Jong [@Sijbren_deJong](#)

March 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (4 p.)

Whereas the EU typically views regional integration as a vehicle for positive change, Russia has repeatedly tried to portray European integration as a malign force. Whereas the European Commission prefers to operate as a Union of 28 states, Russia by contrast, prefers to employ a tactic of 'divide and rule' whereby it either aims at weakening the centre (Brussels) by playing off one Member State against the other, or undermine EU cohesion and coherence as a whole. This policy brief analyses two domains where these competing narratives meet in closer detail: (i) how Russia engages in patterns of information and disinformation to spin certain narratives about Europe's dependence on Russian natural gas imports, which can in turn undermine the EU's efforts to create an Energy Union, and (ii) how the Kremlin draws on Eurosceptic political parties and stakeholders in support of certain narratives that advance its political goals of undermining the EU's cohesion and coherence.

Mind the gap: interpreting the Minsk II agreement

by Svitlana Kobzar [@skobzar](#)

March 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (4 p.)

This paper is the first of a two-part feature that examines Russia's ability to influence French, German and EU narratives on the Minsk II agreement and Ukraine's evolving position in the international system. This article focusses on the competing Russian and Ukrainian narratives

surrounding Minsk II. Thus, it will examine Russia's efforts to portray Ukraine as a 'failed state' and a 'semi-sovereign' subject, and to blame the West for provoking a 'civil war' in the country. It also outlines Ukraine's counter-narratives that emphasise its sovereignty and the inter-state nature of its war with Russia.

Istituto Affari Internazionali

Un anno da Minsk II: a che punto siamo?

by Daniele Fattibene [@danifatti](#)

17 March 2016

Link to the article in [Italian](#) (6 p.)

This article presents a state of play one year after the signature of the Package of Measures for the Implementation of the Minsk Agreements (known as Minsk II). The author firstly enumerates the objectives of Minsk II. Secondly he analyses the clauses of the Minsk II package that still need to be implemented. Thirdly he presents the position of the EU, as well as some elements which might influence the evolution of its position. Finally, the author elaborates on the role played by Italy which continues its 'dual track strategy' in search of a synthesis between, on the one hand, the need to punish violations of international law and to respect commitments with Euro-Atlantic partners and, on the other hand, to leave the door open to a dialogue and a partnership with Moscow.

LSE IDEAS

Avoiding a new 'Cold War': the future of EU-Russia relations in the context of the Ukraine crisis

by Cristain Nitoiu (ed.)

March 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (104 p.)

The feeling that we are experiencing the emergence of a new 'Cold War' is increasingly creeping into European and Russian discourse. This report provides a series of clear policy recommendations on how to move from a deeply confrontational mind-set to a more cooperative one. The authors explore the origins and impact of the Ukraine crisis, from competition between the European Neighbourhood Policy and Eurasian Economic Union to the impact of economic sanctions.

Chatham House - The Royal Institute of International Affairs

Russia's 'new' tools for confronting the West: continuity and innovation in Moscow's exercise of power

by Keir Giles [@KeirGiles](#)

21 March 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (73 p.)

This paper examines two reinvigorated aspects of Russian capability: the use of the armed forces, and the use of information warfare. It seeks to answer two questions in the light of the events of 2014-15. What new capabilities is Russia displaying? And what can or should the West do about them?

Transatlantic Academy

Russia's military: on the rise?

by Margarete Klein

March 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (31 p.)

After the 2008 war with Georgia, Russia started its most radical and comprehensive military reform in several decades. It is aimed at transforming the outdated mass mobilization army into combat-ready armed forces that are able to pursue a broader set of functions. This paper provides an analysis of this process and identifies the successes as well as structural problems. It is concluded that NATO should react with a double strategy. The Atlantic Alliance has to improve credible military reassurance for its Eastern members, and NATO should promote confidence-building measures to avoid unintended military confrontation and maintain chances for cooperation with Russia in areas where the interests of both sides overlap.

TURKEY

Euro-Mediterranean Study Commission / European Institute of the Mediterranean

Turkey and the EU: a new path toward a shared security policy

by Matteo Colombo

4 March 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (14 p.)

This article contends that the current geopolitical situation opens further space for security cooperation between Ankara and Brussels. The brief focuses on three areas: the Kurdish entity in northern Syria, contention over power in the Black Sea region, and the issue of energy diversification to reduce energy dependence from Russia. It aims at identifying possible domains where European and Turkish interests coincide and seeks to determine how a common strategy could contribute to achieving regional goals. The paper concludes that Turkey should redefine its strategy to include European priorities, whereas the EU needs to recognise some of the Turkish interests as legitimate, working with Ankara to guarantee its security goals.

İstanbul Politikalar Merkezi (Istanbul Policy Center)

Reshaping relations in the midst of crises: a bitter anniversary for Turkey-EU accession negotiations

by İlke Toygür and Melih Özsöz

March 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (16 p.)

In this paper, Turkey's accession negotiations are revisited on the 10th anniversary of their beginning with a special focus on the current situation of negotiation chapters, the Cyprus issue, and the potential revision of the Customs Union. The paper will then discuss the refugee deal, including the possibility of visa-free travel for Turkish nationals. Turning the focus to the EU specifically, the new generation of progress reports will be analysed as a tool for enlargement in addition to a general review of the current situation in the EU: First the economic crisis and then the refugee crisis have put the European project itself in a very difficult position, shaking the Euro and the Schengen Agreement from their roots. All in all, Turkey and the EU, as well as bilateral relations, will be analysed taking into consideration the current internal and external challenges.

Centre international de formation européenne

Turkey in the changing world: what to expect in 2016

by Emre Gür

1 March 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (7 p.)

This paper places the developments in Turkey into a global context and looks forward to the expected developments in 2016. Three important perspectives are identified to observe: alignment with the EU, Turkish domestic policy (the Kurdish problem and model of governance) and the Cyprus issue.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Progressive Policy Institute

Unleashing innovation and growth: a progressive alternative to populism

by Will Marshall

15 March 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (72 p.)

As Americans choose a new president in 2016, populist anger dominates the campaign. To hear Donald Trump or Senator Bernie Sanders tell it, America is either a global doormat or a sham democracy controlled by the "one percent." These dark narratives are caricatures, but they do stem from a real dilemma: America is stuck in a slow- growth trap that holds down wages and living standards. How to break this long spell of economic stagnation is the central question in this election. In this paper the authors have the objective to provide a forward-looking plan to unleash innovation, stimulate productive investment, groom talented workers, and put the economy back on a high-growth path.

New America Foundation

The transparency reporting toolkit - Survey & best practice memos for reporting on U.S. government requests for user information

by Kevin Bankston [@kevinbankston](#), Liz Woolery [@lizwoolery](#) and Ryan Budish

31 March 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (122 p.)

The transparency reporting toolkit is a project by New America's Open Technology Institute and Harvard University's Berkman Center for Internet & Society. There are eight memos in the toolkit, each surveying a different topic related to how US Internet and telecommunications companies report on requests for user and customer information. These memos are limited to transparency reporting on data collection subject to US federal and state laws. Transparency reporting on data collection from other countries presents a separate opportunity to examine current and best practices. Given the complexity of legal processes, compliance, and definitions on a global scale, the scope of this survey is limited to US companies subject to US laws and requests for user information.

POST-MAP-ASK - Towards a more democratic, modern lobbying process

by Christine Mahoney and Lee Drutman

28 March 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (30 p.)

This report looks at the ways in which the chaotic legislative lobbying process in the US amplifies the resource imbalances, overwhelms congressional staffers, and influences public policy

outcomes. It makes the case for a process that ensures more accountability, more transparency, and better representation for a more diverse group of citizens.

Norsk Utenrikspolitisk Institutt (The Norwegian Institute of International Affairs)

The U.S. presidential election and its implications on Middle East policy

by Sigurd Neubauer

30 March 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (4 p.)

In this brief, the author analyses the candidates for the presidential elections and how they have positioned themselves in some key Middle East issues.

SPECIAL FOCUS - WESTERN BALKANS

Barcelona Centre for International Affairs

The EU and the Western Balkans: do they share a future?

by Eran Fraenkel

March 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (5 p.)

This paper analyses the political debate on EU accession of the Western Balkans. The rationale for denying EU accession differs for each country, but the underlying reservations are identical: yet "not prepared"; "too early" to accept a new country; or the "cost" of admitting a new member outweighs any benefits that might derive from its accession. The authors call for stronger engagement of the EU in the accession process, based upon mutually agreed-upon accession benchmarks.

European Council on Foreign Relations

Return to instability: how migration and great power politics threaten the Western Balkans

by Francisco de Borja Lasheras [@LasherasBorja](#)

March 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (16 p.)

This article explores the new 'great power' game taking place within the Western Balkans. In the face of other foreign policy challenges, the EU has collectively "dropped the strategic ball" in the Western Balkans and largely adopted a managerial - and at times inconsistent - firefighting approach. Unsolved conflicts, latent tensions and weak institutions remain stumbling blocks against an EU's transformative power. The author argues that the EU's perennial crises have reduced Europe's credibility and appeal in the region, weakening its power still further.

Friends of Europe / Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung

Balkan partnerships – Strengthening the region's ties

28 March 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (16 p.)

This event report contains the highlights of the Friend of Europe's 15th Balkan summit. During the event it was concluded that Europe's worsening migration crisis has changed the dynamic between the EU and the Western Balkans. As recently as a year ago, enlargement fatigue had firmly set in following the Juncker Commission's de facto accession freeze and its downgrading of the enlargement portfolio to a neighbourhood policy offshoot. At the Friends of Europe's 15th Balkans summit, a shift in tone on enlargement was evident, with many seeing the migration crisis as an opportunity for the Western Balkans.

Group for Legal and Political Studies

Western Balkans and its EU integration: 2015 comparative overview

by Malinka Ristevska Jordanova, Ardita Abazi Imeri, Iva Conevska, Milena Lazarević, Sena Marić, Dragana Bajić, Jovana Marović, Milena Milošević, Marko Sošić, Gjergji Vurmo and Ana-Maria Enache

7 March 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (31 p.)

This report serves as a first attempt to provide a comprehensive analysis of the EU integration efforts of the Western Balkan. This analysis revealed that, at the political level, the progress of

Kosovo was slightly above the regional average, however it achieved the lowest score in the region concerning the level of preparedness in this area. On the economic level, Kosovo had one of the lowest levels of progress and also one of the lowest levels of preparedness. Similarly, concerning the ability to take up membership obligations, the progress of Kosovo was one of the lowest in the region, while the level of preparedness was the second lowest, considerably below the regional average.

European Union Institute for Security Studies

The Western Balkans: back in the EU spotlight

by Sabina Kajnič Lange

8 March 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (4 p.)

After several years of being largely absent from the agenda, the Western Balkans is back in focus largely due to the refugee crisis. This paper explores how this has changed the way in which states from the region deal with each other and with the EU.

European Stability Initiative

Escaping the first circle of hell or the secret behind Bosnian reforms

10 March 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (22 p.)

In February 2016, the chairman of the Bosnian presidency, Dragan Covic, submitted his country's EU membership application, demonstrating that Bosnian leaders had their own will, determination and the ability to agree amongst themselves to push for something that they considered to be in the best interest of their country. The history of relations between Bosnia and the EU since 2000 shows that whenever Bosnian institutions were seriously challenged by the EU to co-ordinate, they were able to do so – to the surprise of their European counterparts, who sometimes acted as though Bosnia was expected to fail. This report explores this history and sets the record straight.

Ośrodek Studiów Wschodnich (Centre for Eastern Studies)

Paradoxes of stabilisation. Bosnia and Herzegovina from the perspective of central Europe

by Marta Szpala (ed.)

8 March 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (162 p.)

The main focus of this research are the challenges for the stability of Bosnia and Herzegovina; the examination of the policies and areas, which hinder the reform process, coherence and unity of the state in the changed internal and international circumstances; and the policies of various political actors towards BiH which influence the dynamics of the political process there. This research was the base for developing a political recommendation for the V4 countries which, by conducting common activities, can contribute to the stabilisation of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

MISCELLANEOUS

Chatham House - The Royal Institute of International Affairs

Towards a more effective G20 in 2016: Chinese and UK perspectives

by Stephen Pickford and Zha Xiaogang

22 March 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (19 p.)

China is assuming the presidency of the G20 in 2016, at a time when the global economy is facing significant challenges, both for the global economy and for the G20 itself. The paper looks at the perspectives on global economic governance and the G20's role. Then, it looks at perspectives from China and the UK on these governance reforms. It discusses the priorities for China to pursue during its presidency of the G20 in 2016. The final section puts forward concrete proposals for G20 deliverables for the 2016 summit - scheduled to be held in Hangzhou on 4-5 September this year.

La Vie des Idées

Espace public, urbanité et démocratie

by Stéphane Tonnelat

30 March 2016

Link to the article in [French](#) (7 p.)

The urban public space in large cities is often adorned with democratic virtues. As a place of passage, this is the space for tolerance of difference; as agora or forum, it is the place of conversation and public debate; as a market, it is the place of trade between citizens of different origins; arena as it is the place of representation and exercise of public power in the service of the people and events. The author proposes to consider them as learning spaces behavioural skills in public that promote the widespread availability based on equality, as well as experience spaces violations of that standard and possible mobilizations. Do these traits have a relationship with democracy?

European Union Centre in Singapore

The EU in a nutshell – EU Centre in Singapore's guide to European integration and institutions

by Timothy Misir and Jason Ji

March 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (61 p.)

This brief guide explores the evolving nature of the EU and its purpose as clearly as possible. It provides a concise overview for the general public to be able to understand some important facets of the EU, and keep up with developments in the EU that have a broader impact on global politics and businesses.